

# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVIII

DENVER, COLORADO

Number 4



## SEPTEMBER 1936

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK  
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR



Swift & Company wants to know more about the problems of the livestock and dairy and poultry producers of America. We also want to acquaint producers with our problems.

Some idea of the problems of the producer is gained by us when our representatives attend meetings of producers' organizations, and when our livestock buyers talk with livestock men. However, none of these contacts gives us as complete information as we would like to have.

Swift & Company feels that it can improve

its methods only by finding out what producers think about the company. Only by knowing what others think of us can we make an active and sincere effort to improve our methods, and so better serve producers.



**In the interests of mutual understanding, will you please send us your suggestions as to how we can better serve you? And also ask us any questions you may have in mind about the packing industry?**

We ask you to do this in order that we and you may better understand each other's problems.

## Swift & Company

4214 Packers Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

*Over a period of years, Swift & Company's net profits from all sources have averaged only a fraction of a cent per pound.*

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## The Current Cattle Situation

Observer Explains Effect of Reactors in Cattle Slaughter, Shifts in Cow Population, Prices and Prospects, and the Cattle Cycle

BY EDWARD N. WENTWORTH  
*Director, Armour's Live Stock Bureau*

THE month of August has been designated by the live-stock and meat industry as National Beef Month. Producers and feeders requested packers and retailers to co-operate in the most intensive sales campaign ever put behind any meat campaign. This united promotional effort is directed by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, which is a joint organization of producers, market representatives, packers, and retailers to advance the welfare of the meat industry. The chain stores alone have appropriated \$2,000,000 for advertising in this undertaking.

The campaign was initiated in the late spring because of the unusually heavy receipts of fed cattle and of imported Canadian cattle, as well as because of the unsatisfactory prices in the market. From January through June federally inspected slaughter of cattle had increased 15 per cent over a year ago—from 4,229,000 to 4,862,000 head, or more than 500,000 beeves. This figure was also 18 per cent above the five-year average.

Inspected cattle slaughter during June, 1936, was the highest of any June on record. Furthermore, this rate carried over into July, when nearly 928,000 cattle were killed, or more commercial slaughter than any July on record, except 1918. Average steer prices declined from \$9.30 in January to \$7.86 in June, but recovered to \$8.15 in July.

### She-Stock in Slaughter

For the last ten years (1926-35) the percentage of cows in annual federally inspected slaughter averaged 47.4. However, cow slaughter has been unusually

large recently, the proportion for the year 1935 reaching the unexpected high of 56 per cent, or 5,412,000 head out of a total slaughter of 9,668,000 animals. Had the slaughter of she-stock been normal, one might have expected 4,583,000 cows, but this figure exceeded that expectation by 829,000 head. Three factors contributed materially to this increase: the tendency of cattlemen to hold their cows in 1931 and 1932 due to depression prices; the disposition of some 256,000 reactors to the tuberculin test; and the marketing of some 415,000 reactors to the tests for Bang's disease. These figures may not be exact, but the disease-control program unquestionably accounts for half to two-thirds of the increase.

This surplus slaughter of females declined appreciably following last January, although the percentage decline was greater than the actual decline, due to the large number of steers marketed the first half of this year. The following table tells the story:

TABLE I

Months 1936	Percent She-stock in inspected slaughter (thousands)	No. of She-stock in inspected slaughter	No. of Reactors, Bang's Disease	No. of Reactors Tuber- culosis	Percent Reactors form of She-stock slaughter
Jan. ...	56.8	514	39,735	13,381	10.3
Feb. ...	49.5	367	28,561	12,996	11.3
Mar. ...	48.2	367	38,635	11,282	13.6
Apr. ...	44.7	363	40,575	12,951	14.7
May ...	41.6	327	39,448	12,483	15.9
June ...	44.3	378	33,006	12,019	11.9
	47.6	2,316	219,980	75,112	12.8

The reactors to either of these diseases naturally include bulls as well as cows, but their numbers are relatively small. During the year 1935 the reactors equalled in number slightly over 15 per cent of the cow slaughter, while the per-

centage relation for the first half of 1936 is shown by months in the foregoing table, the proportion for the six months being 12.8 per cent. Probably the reactors from these diseases are now becoming less important in cattle slaughter.

### Ratio of She-Stock in Breeding Herds

The 1935 census shows 68,284,209 cattle and calves on farms and ranches, of which 36,930,584 head were cows and heifers of breeding age. Thus, in 1935, 54.1 per cent of all cattle and calves were females of breeding age. The 1930 census showed 54,250,300 head of cattle and calves as of April 1, excluding calves under three months of age. The cows and heifers of breeding age totaled 28,335,949 head, or 52.2 per cent. In the five-year interval cows had increased approximately 8,600,000 head and formed nearly 2 per cent more of the total cattle population. This increase might not seem abnormal were it not for the fact that some 8,288,000 head were purchased under the drought relief program, 80 to 85 per cent of which were she-stock. There is no published information as to the number of these which were too young for breeding, but it seems probable that the increase in females during the five-year census period was probably between 12,000,000 and 15,000,000 head. Certainly the cattle herd of the United States was never in a more mobile situation from the reproductive standpoint than at the time of the 1934 drought; for there had never been so many she-stock of breeding age in the entire population. Calf population could be increased rapidly by widespread breeding, or could be diminished with equal rapidity by the slaughter of cows.

The excess over normal in commercial slaughter of she-stock during 1934-35 is difficult to estimate. From 1932—the trough in the cycle of annual slaughter of cows—the numbers killed under federal inspection rose 2,200,000 head, or nearly 69 per cent, by 1935. In the previous cycle the increase in the same elapsed time was only 47 per cent from

the bottom in 1921 into 1924. While there is no means of making a true comparison, the inference would be that at least 600,000 more cows than normal appeared in the 1935 commercial slaughter, and about 450,000 more in 1934. What the 1935 calf crop would have been, except for the drought relief slaughter and the excessive commercial slaughter, is difficult to imagine.

#### Changes in Cow Population

The following table shows the number of cows and heifers over two years old by sections of the United States, the percentages indicating the proportion which they form of the total cattle population. The divisions which include the range country comprise the following states:

West south-central section — Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas; mountain section—New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana; Pacific section — California, Oregon, Washington; west north-central section—North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota.

Approximately 22,000,000 out of the nearly 37,000,000 cows reported on United States farms and ranches by the 1935 census were west of the Mississippi River.

TABLE II COWS AND HEIFERS TWO YEARS OLD AND OVER					
	Number	Calves	Percent of all Cattle and and Cattle	Percent of all Cattle and and Cattle	
United States.....	36,930,584	54.1	28,335,949	52.2	
New England.....	820,116	69.8	692,280	62.4	
Middle Atlantic.....	2,379,470	66.7	2,069,333	63.0	
South Atlantic.....	2,563,107	54.3	1,798,115	54.9	
East North Central.....	6,558,255	60.6	5,168,887	58.3	
East South Central.....	2,691,894	54.2	1,873,808	56.2	
West North Central.....	9,957,491	50.4	7,891,108	47.2	
West South Central.....	6,341,279	52.3	4,452,482	51.5	
Mountain.....	3,628,727	49.3	2,848,823	47.8	
Pacific.....	1,990,245	52.4	1,541,113	50.5	

It will be observed that the greatest increase in cows has taken place in the west north-central and west south-central sections, the total number being nearly 4,000,000 head. However, in the west north-central territory they have increased from 47.2 to 50.4 per cent of the population—3.2 per cent—while in the west south-central territory they increased only from 51.5 to 52.3, or 0.8 per cent. The only section where the proportion of cows decreased noticeably was the east south-central, where other cattle increased slightly more rapidly than cows. The total number of cows increased over 800,000 head, but the other cattle increased a few hundred more to make the change in proportion. It is interesting to observe that in the predominantly dairy sections, such as those of New England and middle Atlantic regions, the percentage of cows in the total population was 69.8 and 66.7, while in the south Atlantic and east south-central the percentage of cows was 54.3 and 54.2, respectively. In the range country the percentage was still lower, the west south-central averaging 52.3,

the Pacific states 52.4, and the mountain states 49.3. The east north-central states have a higher percentage of dairy cows and their total proportion of cows was 60.6, while in the west north-central states the proportion was only 50.4. However there was a distinct difference in the two tiers of states in this region. In the tier running south from Minnesota through Iowa to Missouri the proportion of cows was 51.7 per cent, while in the more western tier running through the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas the percentage was 49. While the differences in proportion were not great, there is much more dairying in the eastern tier than in the western tier.

#### Cattle Prices

Cattle prices have been rather erratic the last three years, the *Drover's Journal* showing the average for the drought year 1934 to have been \$6.75 at Chicago, while for 1935 the average was \$10.35. Average prices began to decline in August, 1935, however, despite some continued advance for four months in tops, and the monthly record since then is shown in the following table:

TABLE III  
MONTHLY AVERAGE STEER PRICES IN CHICAGO

1935—		
August	.....	\$10.65
September	.....	10.60
October	.....	10.45
November	.....	10.00
December	.....	9.95
1936—		
January	.....	9.35
February	.....	8.45
March	.....	8.70
April	.....	8.45
May	.....	7.95
June	.....	7.85
July	.....	8.15

Possibly this decline was not surprising in the face of the increased slaughter the first half of this year. However, the situation was critical indeed to cattle feeders who filled their feed-lots from markets whose general price level was \$2 per cwt. higher last fall.

Of course, this decline in price was to be expected in one sense, because the shortage in fat cattle supplies following the drought of 1934 sent prices skyward. But feed and crops were good in 1935, and one could well expect a reaction.

The price peak of the last cattle cycle was reached in 1928, and the following table shows the record since:

TABLE IV  
ANNUAL AVERAGE STEER PRICES AT CHICAGO

Year	Act. Price	Index No. (Av. 1910-14=100)	Adj. Price
1928	\$14.05	141.2	\$9.95
1929	13.05	139.1	9.63
1930	11.05	126.1	8.76
1931	8.10	106.6	7.60
1932	6.75	94.6	7.14
1933	5.45	96.2	5.67
1934	6.75	109.3	6.17
1935	10.35	116.8	8.86

The low spot in the price cycle was reached in 1933, and as far as this table is concerned it would appear that recovery is well under way. That such is not the case is indicated by the monthly prices quoted in Table III. In fact, if the prices adjusted for the index number of all commodities are considered, it

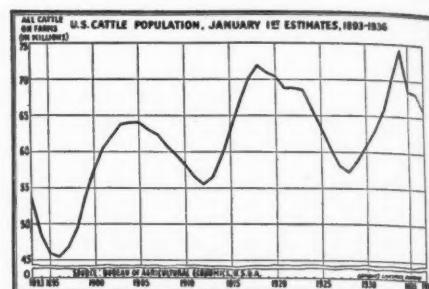


FIGURE 1

will be seen that relative prices this year declined into June with only a slight recovery in July—January, \$7.92; February, \$7.16; March, \$7.50; April, \$7.28; May, \$6.91; June, \$6.77; July, \$6.96.

#### Turn in Trend

While feeders using borrowed money are naturally more interested in the actual price, the true trend of the cattle business in relation to other businesses is best shown by these adjusted prices. It becomes evident that a bottom was apparently reached in June; for, not only were July prices higher relatively, but prices have continued to rise thus far in August. Possibly part of the recovery has been due to the reduced competition of imported cattle and possibly part of it is seasonal, due to the increased purchasing power of workers during the summer. Nevertheless, there is ample room for an active campaign for promoting beef consumption during the month of August; for the crucial time in the marketing of drought cattle will arrive during the next few weeks. With the packing and retail industries working at top speed in beef sales, and with consumers accustomed to somewhat greater beef consumption, the crucial point in market receipts may be passed without serious effect on producers throughout the cattle country.

#### Prospects in Cattle Market

With the continuance of the drought, considerable apprehension is developing in retail meat circles as to the prospects for winter supplies. While in the early part of it is seasonal, due to the increase in feed-lots was 30 to 40 per cent above the corresponding dates for 1935, on August 1 this surplus had been reduced to only 3 per cent. Apparently the surplus of last season's fed beef has about gone into consumption.

On the other hand, with the close of the grazing season approaching, the cattle situation in some of the range states has become serious. Large numbers of cattle from northeastern Wyoming and eastern Montana have moved into better grass lands in Idaho and western Colorado. In other parts of the West it has been possible to carry the cattle forward in the summer grazing grounds, but the lack of rain on the winter range will force rapid marketing up to the middle of October. Many of the old-established cattlemen in the western Dakotas, eastern Wyoming, and

eastern Montana will be required to cut their herds to at least 50 per cent of their present size in order to have enough winter grass, hay, or other forage to carry through until spring. The movement of feeders into the Corn Belt has also been very much restricted, as the prospects of only a 50 per cent corn crop have developed. During the first half of the year only about 70 per cent as many cattle went into Corn Belt feed-lots as during the first part of 1935, and the prospects are that the fall movement will be even more restricted.

Fortunately, the southern part of the range country has not been so seriously affected as the north. Texas, New Mexico, and the western two-thirds of Colorado are able to market their cattle in something above average condition, and only adverse weather this fall will prevent their filling the gap after the northwest ranges clear.

The general impression seems to be that winter feeding of cattle will be so reduced that supplies of well-finished beef will be less than half of normal. There will, of course, be a considerable number of warmed-up cattle, but proportion of choice-to-prime beef is likely to be small until another crop year has passed.

#### Effect of Drought on Cattle Cycle

Had the cattle population developed normally, the peak would have been reached in 1935 or 1936. However, the drought of 1934 quite definitely prevented its arrival, and the drought of 1936 can well bring about a reduction in cattle population, following the drought two seasons back, equivalent to four or five years of normal decline in the cattle cycle. As has been previously pointed out, however, the rates of increase or decrease in the national cattle herd are more mobile than ever before, and it is not improbable that cattle cycles of the future, instead of showing upward movements of seven to nine years followed by downward steps of six to nine years, may be completed in eleven to thirteen years. The increasing growth of feed crops in sections where cotton, tobacco, and other basic commodities designated under the government control programs have been reduced provides an invitation for cattle expansion. The natural response of cattle producers to this

expansion must be in the direction of more efficient methods. A quicker turnover is certain to develop from this situation; for a higher percentage of cows in the herd and the quick finish of calves for market now possible should cause the cattle cycle correspondingly to shorten.

## ANLSA Group Meets

### Executive Committee Adopts Resolutions, Confers on Marketing

THE AAA range-conserving program did not get endorsement of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, meeting in Denver, Colorado, on August 21 to 23 to consider current national livestock problems.

The stockmen did not oppose range-conserving practices as such, but the idea that they should receive payments from the United States Treasury for carrying out work on their own properties was considered unsound. The better way of conserving the range, it was believed, would be through education of stockmen as to better methods of range improvement and conservation. A resolution adopted on the subject expressed the fear that the government program would only end up with a stiff processing tax on cattle.

The federal range-conserving program is designed to bring into play such projects as deferred spring grazing; pasture contouring against erosion; reseeding of private range areas; fencing; rodent and predatory animal control; building of dams; destruction of weeds. Projects would vary with the locality. They would not be compulsory.

At the dozen or more meetings held in western range states during August, there was wariness among the stockmen generally as to the suggested remedies because of lack of definite proposals and the fear of a resulting processing tax to defray government expenditures.

#### Argentine Pact Opposed

Opposition was again expressed to the Argentine sanitary convention, through which our present embargo against entry of live-stock products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists would be amended to permit importation from zones declared free of the disease. A continuance of the present embargo was demanded.

Repeal of the Reciprocal Trade Act was demanded, and until such action might be taken or the Canadian pact expires or is nullified, a system of weekly quotas on live-stock importations from Canada was urged.

#### Conference on Marketing Held

A major matter before the committee dealt with market practices at the big markets, and a special Marketing Com-

mittee was formed which conferred on August 23 with representatives of stock-yards companies and live-stock exchanges. The following subjects came under consideration: Feasibility of establishing auction sale rings at central markets; how best to regulate country auction markets; co-operation between states in the control of live-stock deprivations; uniform state laws for control of local sale rings; and sanitary and brand inspection regulations.

#### Transportation Action Recommended

A system of cost-finding in motor transportation was urged, on the theory that co-ordination of rail and motor transportation be grounded upon the principle of cost of performance plus a reasonable profit. Traffic Counsel Blaine was instructed to institute formal action before the commission to bring about a uniform method of assessing weights on country-to-country shipments of live stock. He was also instructed to secure needed co-operation from central markets and take the offensive in obtaining universal application of the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rate so that such rate will apply to central-market points and feeding stations nearby.

#### National Beef Month Praised

A resolution of thanks for co-operation in the National Beef Month was voted to the National Chain Store Association and its membership, the National Retail Meat Dealers' Association and its units, the Institute of American Meat Packers, and all others taking part.

Other resolutions directed the secretary of the national association to prepare a petition to the United States Tariff Commission asking the immediate increase of 50 per cent in the duty on canned beef, and urged that the Bang's disease eradication program be continued on a strictly voluntary basis, because "any attempt to make it compulsory at this time would retard rather than promote the progress of the work."

#### Meat Dealers Favor Grading

Among resolutions adopted by the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers at their convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 2-6, was a request for the extension of government meat grading to all plants federally inspected. It was also urged that packers distinguish in brand names between meats prepared under federal regulations and those prepared in plants not under federal inspection. The government was asked to inspect all pork for trichinae.

Other resolutions called for legislation against "loss leaders;" requested prohibition of slaughter of immature veal; and endorsed National Beef Month.

I. W. Ringer, of Seattle, was re-elected to the position of representative of the meat dealers on the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

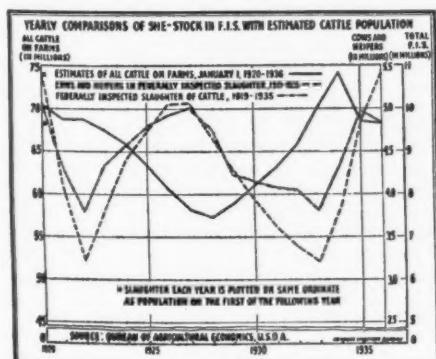


FIGURE 2

## Beef Gets Nation-Wide Publicity

Newspapers, Railroads, Commissionmen, and Colleges Push National Beef Month Publicity through Many Channels



SAFEWAY STORES DRESSED UP THEIR MARKETS IN THIS FASHION

DISPLAY beef attractively, suggest it to consumers and tell them how to use it, and sales of beef will start upward.

And that is just what was done during the National Beef Month in retail stores all over the country. Exact results of the boost that beef got during August cannot be tabulated yet—it is too early for figures and analyses—but reports received from every section of the country and from a wide range of co-operating agencies prove that National Beef Month activities were lively. The National Live Stock and Meat Board reports that every possible channel put forth efforts to increase the use of beef among the nation's 130,000,000 food consumers.

A decidedly favorable reaction among all branches of the live-stock and meat industry as to the value of this drive for beef was found. Typical of the attitude of the industry is the following statement from a stock grower.

"This campaign has developed a spirit of co-operation among cattle producers, packers, wholesale and retail distributors, and the consuming public which has already exceeded expectations."

### Beef Advertising Gets Boost

Newspaper advertising of beef received impetus as the result of the inauguration of National Beef Month. Chain store and independent retailer organizations made effective use of advertisements which not only stressed the special campaign, but also called attention to the variety of beef cuts available and the part that beef plays for health. John A. Logan, executive vice-president of the Food and Grocery Chain Stores of America, reported

early in the campaign on the chain store advertising in behalf of beef:

"First week advertisements which are now reaching our office indicate that almost half the total space is devoted to promoting the sale of beef."

Typical of the responses from independent dealers throughout the country was the message received from Secretary J. M. Shoultz of the Central Coast Counties Association of Retail Grocers:

"Our tabulation of the first day's advertisements showed 132 column inches of beef ads representing directly fifty-one store units. For the rest of the month this effort will be spread over five counties."

Beef posters and streamers, window strips, case displays, beef recipes, suggestions on beef cookery, facts on the food value of meat—all were used to excellent advantage in meat markets ranging in size from the small-town establishment to the market located in the heart of a heavily populated metropolitan area.

### Railroads Arouse Beef Consciousness

Twenty-six of the nation's railroads, whose dining cars serve thousands of customers daily, co-operated in the observance of August as National Beef Month. Attractive and appetizing beef dishes were featured in the dining-car menus. Attention was called to the campaign in many cases through announcements made on the menu cards. Beef stickers showing "August is National Beef Month" and urging support of the event were used by a number of the roads to excellent advantage.

### Commissionmen Help in Radio Talks

Information concerning the purpose of Beef Month, the importance of get-

ting behind the campaign, and facts stressing the value of a wider use of beef in the diet reached radio listeners across the country through special announcements and radio talks sponsored by live-stock commissionmen.

The executive vice-president of the National Live Stock Exchange reported that radio announcements concerning the beef campaign were broadcast daily during August at practically all markets where exchanges made use of the radio in giving market reports. These announcements presented a series of pertinent facts relative to beef and called the attention of the public to the fact that August was National Beef Month.

The Producers' Commission Associations and the Farmers' Union houses on various markets made Beef Month announcements along with their broadcasts in connection with live-stock market reports.

It is conservatively estimated that at least fifty radio stations were used by marketing agencies in making these announcements. Through this medium alone, millions of consumers were reached with the story of beef.

### Stores and Colleges Broadcast

Retail stores in a number of cities made use of the radio in connection with Beef Month. A group of stores in Denver, Colorado, for example, featured beef in a series of evening broadcasts during the campaign.

**BEEF TONIGHT MARY?**

*Swell!*

The Master Touch in Roasting Beef!

1.00	1.00
1.00	1.00

August Beef Specials and what to serve with them

<b>POT ROAST</b>	1.00
TURNIPS	00
CARROTS	00
STRING BEANS	00
<b>RIB ROAST</b>	1.00
CELERY	00
SWEET CORN	00
<b>SIRLOIN STEAK</b>	1.00
ASPARAGUS	00
TOMATOES	00
BEETS	00
CAULIFLOWER	00

CABBAGE	00	1.00	00	1.00	00
LETUCE	00	1.00	00	1.00	00
APPLES	00	1.00	00	1.00	00

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essential quality; carried in the feed-lot, they are handicapped by excess blubber.

Killers realize that on running out of the old crop of corn-fed steers they will find harder picking in a new output of merely warmed-up stock. Instead of 62 to 65 per cent yields, a large proportion of their steer supply will dress under 60 per cent next year; but, as consumers are averse to buying inedible fat, the change in production may be beneficial. Certainly no complaint about overdone bullocks will be heard.

Early sales of new-crop beef calves will be awaited with interest. The initial event will be held at Marfa, Texas. No prices have been put out by commercial breeders, who have been awaiting corn-crop developments. Calves should be popular this year, because they eat much less than a big steer, cost less to acquire a pound of gain, and sell to maximum advantage when ready to go to the butcher. The northwestern beef-calf crop has been set back or decimated by drought.

#### Plains Cattle Ahead of Schedule

July and August filled markets with bovine drought refugees. Practically all these cattle came from the Great Plains section, killers and feeders dividing the supply between them. Light steers, heifers, cows, and calves came in bunches that frequently exhibited an advanced stage of emaciation. Packers got considerable cheap, inferior beef for storage; feeders absorbed thousands of yearlings, with a few two-year-old's, at prices ranging from \$4.50 to \$6.50. Few fat grass steers came in the run, nothing in killing condition to beat \$8.15 materializing. Drought has thrown the bulk of the season's gathering on the plains into the market hopper thirty to sixty days earlier than usual. The second run will come from the mountain areas, where physical conditions are excellent, and will yield considerable beef.

The Canadian cattle import quota eligible to the 2-cent duty—approximately 155,000 head—has been nearly filled. To what extent restricted meat production resulting from the drought will expand imports must be left to developments. The Argentine treaty is still in limbo, but may get attention at the hands of the Senate in January; meanwhile cattle cost in South America is rising rapidly. Production conditions in Europe do not promise further expansion of meat imports under present tariff imposts.

#### People Like Sausage

Sausage consumption in the United States has reached unprecedented volume. This year it will be about 400,000,000 pounds. Production during the first six months of 1936 was 394,000,000 pounds, compared with 356,000,000 during the same period last year—an increase of 11 per cent. Consumption of all meats during the first half of 1936 was 4 per cent less than the previous four-year average; sausage increased 16 per cent. The previous record was made

in 1929. Low-grade product, especially that of rubbery, thin dairy bulls, is used almost exclusively in sausage manufacture. A large percentage of sausage is cereal filled. It is rapidly becoming a popular food with the masses, involving no waste and requiring little cooking.

Continuance of high hog prices is insured by production conditions. The swine population of the country was seriously reduced by the six-million-pig massacre, and conditions have not since been favorable for rehabilitating the industry. In western arid sections production is at low ebb, and this year's corn crop failure has necessitated slaughter of thousands of sows, not to speak of premature culling of light pigs weighing 50 to 100 pounds and even less. Chicago has been inundated with "other market" pigs, and the sow run has exceeded 50 per cent of supply. Even under favorable conditions, with the recognized prolificacy of the species, several years will be required to bring pork production up to normal. Pork production during the first six months of 1936, under federal inspection, was 2,201,000,000 pounds, against 1,813,000,000 pounds during the same period of 1935—an increase of 21 per cent—but the comparison is with one of the shortest supplies in modern trade history, and the increase was due in no small degree to liquidation of breeding stock. Hogs must realize more than \$10 per cwt. on the farm to pay for corn costing \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel.

#### Misconceptions of Beef Business

Misconception exists, especially in journalistic circles, regarding frozen-beef stocks. Bulk of the beef that figures in this accumulation is the product of western cows and low-grade steers. Occasionally speculators may tuck sets of ribs and loins into storage, but only when corn-fed cattle are selling at low prices. Packers have a stated policy in disposing of their beef production: to sell it the moment chilling has been effected. Beef is a shrinkable commodity, storage is expensive, and the investment must be taken into consideration, as carrying charges are onerous. Heavy steers, now selling anywhere from \$8.50 to \$9.50 per cwt., could not be economically stored, and the outlet for light carcasses is so broad as to attract the product into immediate consumption.

Illustrative of misconception of beef trade intricacies was a leading editorial in the *Chicago Tribune* recently on the subject of beef conservation. Assuming, erroneously, that the cattle market had been glutted by feed scarcity, the writer advocated adoption of a system enabling cattle feeders to have packers slaughter cattle for the account of the owner, the latter giving processors hides and offal and, in addition, paying 2 cents per pound for their services. As commission killers are satisfied with the "drop" (meaning hide and offal) for this work, the suggestion invaded the realm of ab-

surdity. The proposition was that processors store carcasses at the expense of the owner against a possible rise in value; in other words, affording feeders opportunity to secure "speculators' profits."

## Wool Growers Meet

#### Wyoming and Arizona Woolmen Oppose Argentine Pact

RESOLUTIONS adopted at the recent Sheridan meeting of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association (see August PRODUCER for report of other proceedings) asked for co-operation of cotton industry in correcting certain discriminatory labeling practices; urged the labeling of fabrics in a way to inform purchasers of all adulterants in materials sold as partly or wholly of wool, and the marking of wool textiles to show country of origin; implored wool growers to support wool promotion program; and requested the consolidation of federal bureaus doing work in connection with the wool-growing industry.

The doctrine of States' rights was subscribed to in a resolution declaring that 90 per cent of the people of Wyoming believe in this doctrine. The turning over to the state of federal lands in Wyoming and other western states was urged. Wild life within the state should be controlled by the state, it was declared. Increase in grazing land valuation for taxation purposes was opposed.

Repeal of the Reciprocal Tariff Act was asked, and ratification of the proposed Argentine sanitary convention opposed. Opposition to an excise or processing tax on live stock was expressed.

In transportation matters, the association voiced protest against legislation which would place undue burdens upon truck transportation and minimize competition to the advantage of the railroads, opposed modification of long-and-short-haul clause of the Interstate Commerce Act, and asked that emergency drought rates be extended on concentrates.

The Farm Credit Administration was urged to differentiate in loan values of purebred and commercial flocks and to liberalize credit to breeders of the former to permit of improvement in flocks. Allowance of deductions of the two preceding years' losses in making income tax returns was asked. A reasonable exemption from income taxes was requested for agricultural and live-stock corporations and that such firms be exempt from paying federal taxes on undistributed net profits so long as such profits are used for retiring existing indebtedness.

Appropriation of funds for control of grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, and other harmful insects was urged, also

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an appropriation by the state of \$75,000 for the destruction of predatory animals.

The combining of the administration of the Forest Service and that of the Public Domain was opposed "until the proper legislation is proposed properly to protect and perpetuate the rights of . . . established live-stock units." A law recognizing the right to graze upon public lands as an established right was recommended, and the practice of the Forest Service of taking from present permittees a portion of their permits for redistribution to new users was condemned.

#### Arizona Wool Growers

Vigorous opposition to ratification of the proposed Argentine sanitary convention was expressed in a resolution passed by the Arizona Wool Growers' Association at its fiftieth annual convention held at Flagstaff, Arizona, on July 15.

The resolution pointed out that the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association has gone on record as opposing the sanitary convention and demanding retention of the present embargo against importation of live stock and its products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists, and since that organization is made up of publicly employed veterinarians thoroughly acquainted with live-stock health affairs, its position in the matter was believed to be a sound one.

#### America's First Cattle

The first cattle brought to America were apparently those reaching the North Atlantic coast with the Norsemen nearly a thousand years ago, according to the historian John Fiske, relates Wm. Whitfield Woods, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, in an address before the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers' convention in Ohio recently. The first hogs and sheep apparently came with Columbus to the West Indies on his second voyage. Live stock was so valuable in Plymouth colony for a time that it took six people to own a cow.

After the Revolution, Mr. Woods states, when the pasture lands of the Atlantic coast had become inadequate to feed its growing cities—but before the railroads had arrived to offer a ride over the mountains to the live stock of the Ohio valley—for half a century mountain-climbing cattle and hogs trudged across the Alleghenies to Baltimore or Philadelphia in huge herds of up to 5,000 each. In the same period fat hogs for the Cincinnati market were packed in barrels and sent down the Mississippi River to feed not only the plantation South and the eastern seaboard but even the laborers of Europe, while Cincinnati thus received the nickname "Porkopolis."

## Cattleman Meet in Many Places

### Arizona Ranchmen and Ranchwomen Tour Their State; Idaho Cattle Growers Reorganize; Local and Purebred Groups Elect Officers

"TO one side there, mister, here comes the parade," Of course, it is not likely that any such order was given, but it might have been; for when the long train of Arizona automobiles came winding around the mountain curves other motorists simply pulled off the road and craned their necks for a while, wondering what it was all about.

It was the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association "cattlemen's tour" on which were a large number of Arizona stockmen and stockwomen, making the rounds of cattlemen's meetings in the state. This year they started at Duncan, slipped over to Clifton, up to Springerville, on to Payson and Prescott, and wound up at Kingman. Twenty-five cars, packed with a good hundred of Arizona's representative cattlemen, made most of these stops.

All roads led to Duncan on August 7, where some fifty of the advance guard gathered for a luncheon meeting. Soil conservation work, both in speech and display, was the subject of the day. Check dams and other SCS work were inspected.

Then off rambled the cars to camp for the night in Clifton, a little town nestled at the foot of high sheer cliffs and spread along the canyon for three or four miles. Here the next morning the Greenlee County Cattle Association members and the travelers held their meeting.

Fred Fritz, president of the Greenlee organization, opened the sessions. He told about county affairs, state affairs, and national affairs. We quote him on the latter subject:

"We are proud to say that we have put the American National Live Stock Association in the cow business here in Greenlee County. We have recorded an A over E brand on the left ribs and a

crop and split on the right ear as the association's brand and mark. Each member has agreed to put this brand on one calf each year, and whenever that calf is sold the proceeds will go to the American National . . . Our national association, our state association, and our local association give us a tie-up with Washington, and the loop of our lariat which holds the calf we brand for the National will fasten that tie-up to our ranch gate."

The meeting typified strong belief in association work. Arizona cattlemen generally are association-minded. They were the ones who started the "calf plan" way of helping out with finances in the American National. That was the Yavapai association. Others got in on "give-a-calf" plans, and still others worked out schemes that meant good support for the National. With one plan or another, the Cochise-Graham, Gila County, Greenlee County, Northern Arizona, Arizona State, Yavapai County, and Central Arizona Feeders' associations have given strong support to the National.

Mrs. Keith in her recent weekly letter writes about the calf plan:

"This seems to us one of the most practical of all money-raising schemes. If every cowman in the West who believes in the work of the American National would adopt that plan, Mr. Mollin and the other officers would have no more money worries. It is simple, takes no special time, and it only follows your old custom of selling a neighbor's steer along with your own when you find one on your range, weighing it separately, paying the inspection fee, and then sending the proceeds to the owner. Now, when a Greenlee County man finds a 'National' calf in his round-up he will handle it just that way, sending the proceeds to the national association."



THE TOURING COWMEN STOP FOR A PICNIC AT "STRAY HORSE"

There were other speakers at the Clifton meeting—Mrs. J. M. Keith, secretary of Arizona's state association; that association's president, Frank Boice; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, and others. A banquet and dance rounded out the day, and on Sunday, the 9th, twenty-five cars of "tourists" hit out for a pull uphill to the top of Blue Ridge, 9,500 feet, and down to Springerville.

At Springerville, the Northern Arizona Cattlemen's Association, through Bill Spence, of Springerville, extended welcome to the motoring cattlemen. And it was at Springerville that Charles Wetzler, of Holbrook, secretary of the Northern Arizona organization, presented to F. E. Mollin, secretary of the National, a \$650 check as the Northern Arizona association's contribution for 1936. This money was collected through the sale of "bull tickets" last May at Holbrook. Verily, the Arizonans are staunch supporters.

On the morning of the 11th, the drive over long, straight roads on rolling country, through the Petrified Forest and up over Promontory Lookout to Payson started. That point reached, another meeting was the order of the day. Stephen Bixby, president of the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association, had extended the invitation. The meeting was one of the largest attended on the tour. Live-stock problems were discussed, remedies suggested.

Prescott was the destination on the morning of the 13th, and noon at Prescott found 125 Yavapai County cattlemen and cattlewomen gathered to welcome the caravan. It was better than a dozen strong when this town was reached.

The Prescott meeting was made up of a dinner, with Ben Stewart, of Mayer, president of the Yavapai organization, acting as official host; a business meeting; and a welcoming address by Frank Gyberg, of Flagstaff, and other talks.

A welcome to Mohave County awaited the cattlemen as they left Prescott. E. L. Jameson, president of the Mohave County Live Stock Association, and Aubrey Gist, secretary, had met the tour in Prescott to extend this invitation. So the last lap put the group in Kingman, and there, to top it all off, awaited several ranchmen to conduct the party to 726-foot Boulder Dam.

"The hospitality met with was just as real as in the days of horseback," was the opinion of the homeward-bound cowmen.

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#### Idaho Cattle Association

The Idaho Cattle and Horse Growers' Association held its annual convention in Pocatello on August 13-14. A large number of Idaho cattlemen were on hand to pledge their support to a reorganized and more closely knit state

organization. Most of the state's grazing associations were represented. The meeting was a decided success.

In his report of the proceedings of the meeting, Temporary Secretary E. F. Rinehart refers to two questions that were generally asked regarding membership: "Why should a small cattleman belong to the state and national associations?" and "What advantage has a member over a non-member?"

In answering the first question, the secretary states that cattlemen need strong organizations to look after their interests, and points out that the American National Live Stock Association is active, opposing reciprocal trade agreements, protesting against processing taxes, and securing satisfactory grazing legislation. In the state, problems such as transportation regulation, use of range, purebred bull law, brand inspection, and theft prevention need attention.

As to the second question, the answer is, says Mr. Rinehart, that as long as the Idaho and the national associations are continued the non-member will receive the same benefit as the member; but by taking part in meetings and giving counsel he would add prestige to the association and help the industry. "All cattlemen need a strong state and national organization, and the associations also need the support of all cattlemen."

The following resolutions were adopted:

Opposing reciprocal trade agreements; asking that embargo on South American beef be continued; pledging support to legislative committee and endorsing work on theft prevention and improvement of brand inspection; asking that beef cattle be given proper consideration in national forests and on public domain; commanding Forest Service and Division of Grazing for work in range improvement; approving rodent-control work of Biological Survey; asking that tariff on hides be increased; endorsing movement to secure proper labeling of leather goods; approving compulsory beef grading; asking for improvement in fats-and-oils legislation; urging that imported canned beef be labeled.

The Legislative Committee, made up of O. E. Hendricks, of Swan Lake, chairman; H. E. Nettleton, of Murphy; David DeChamps, of Malad; Mike Gini, of Challis; Dr. T. W. White, of Boise; Russell Thorp, of Wyoming; J. L. Basel, of Mt. Home; A. L. Dorney, of Montpelier; and Leigh Gittins, of McCammon, submitted the following report:

Favoring compulsory brand registration; favoring Wyoming brand inspection set-up for Idaho; favoring licensing and bonding of all commercial trucks; endorsing American National Live Stock Association resolution on theft prevention (a resolution referring to promotion of co-operative effort in the West to wipe out the rustling menace).

Officers elected for the coming year are: Max D. Cohn, of Arimo, president; M. T. Jones, of Malad, first vice-president; A. R. Babcock, of Moore, second vice-president.

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#### Arizona Hereford Association

The Arizona Registered Hereford Breeders' Association at its recent annual meeting, held in Tucson, shortened its name to the Arizona Hereford Association.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were: T. E. Heady, of Patagonia, president; F. C. Kimble, of Douglas, vice-president; and E. L. Trott, of Tucson, secretary-treasurer. Members selected on the directors' board included: B. H. York, of Prescott; E. R. Cowden, of Phoenix; and C. Burnell Bixby, of Globe.

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#### Southern Colorado Association

Officers elected at the recent annual meeting of the Southern Colorado Live Stock Association were: Albert V. Berg, of Wootton, president; Ernest Meyers, of Hoehne, vice-president; Harry L. Bierne and W. H. Green, both of Trinidad, secretary and treasurer, respectively.

#### State Association Membership

For the information of readers of the PRODUCER, we give below a list of state association members of the American National Live Stock Association:

**Arizona Cattle Growers' Association—**  
Frank S. Boice, President, Sonoita

Mrs. J. M. Keith, Secretary, Phoenix

**California Cattlemen's Association—**

W. A. Freeman, President, Santa Paula

John Curry, Secretary, San Francisco

**Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon—**

Herman Oliver, President, John Day

C. L. Jamison, Secretary, Canyon City

**Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association—**

L. A. Edmundson, President, Pueblo

Dr. B. F. Davis, Secretary, Denver

**Idaho Cattle and Horse Growers' Association—**

Max Cohn, President, Arimo

E. F. Rinehart, Acting Secretary, Boise

**Louisiana Cattlemen's Association—**

A. L. Gayle, President, Lake Charles

W. T. Cobb, Secretary, Baton Rouge

**Montana Stock Growers' Association—**

Joe Metlen, President, Armstead

E. A. Phillips, Secretary, Helena

**Nebraska Stock Growers' Association—**

Robert Graham, President, Alliance

F. M. Broome, Secretary, Alliance

**Nevada State Cattle Association—**

William B. Wright, President, Deeth

Mrs. Grace Short Reed, Secretary, Elko

**New Mexico Cattle Growers Association—**

A. D. Brownfield, President, Florida

Bertha Benson, Secretary, Albuquerque

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association—

H. F. McGill, President, Alice

E. B. Spiller, Secretary, Ft. Worth

Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association—

J. M. Macfarlane, President, Salt Lake City

Washington Cattlemen's Association—

John P. Helphrey, President, Curlew

H. Hackedorn, Secretary, Pullman

Western North Dakota Stock Association—

John Leakey, President, Bismarck

Andrew Johnson, Secretary, Watford City

Western South Dakota Stock Growers' Association—

Thomas Jones, President, Midland

Queen Stewart, Secretary, Buffalo Gap

Wyoming Stock Growers' Association—

S. C. Hyatt, Acting President, Hyattville

Russell Thorp, Secretary, Cheyenne

## National Beef Grading Bill

Previous mention has been made in the columns of THE PRODUCER of the introduction during the final days of the last Congress of H. R. 13022, a bill providing for the grading of all beef and veal in interstate commerce. The measure was introduced by Representative Marvin Jones, of Texas. It is sponsored by the American National Live Stock Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The provisions of that bill are summarized as below:

The bill declares that transactions involving slaughtering, preparation, and marketing of live stock are affected with a public interest; that classification and sale of products according to kind, class, and grade affect the values thereof and the values of live stock; that without uniform standards of classification, honesty and completeness of information is lacking and it is impossible for consumers to be assured of the quality of the products purchased, and live stock are susceptible to speculation detrimental to consumers and producers; that such practices constitute a burden upon commerce which adversely affects the normal movements and value of live stock and makes the use of uniform standards for product grades and grading imperative.

The secretary is authorized to establish standards for classifying and grading. He is authorized to prepare and distribute illustrative and educational material.

Whenever standards have been fixed, such products shall not be sold in commerce until they have been graded and marked by an official grader. No common carrier shall accept such products for shipment until graded.

The secretary is authorized to employ competent graders. Packers and dis-

tributors shall legibly mark, under the supervision of an official grader, all graded products. The act shall not interfere with or prevent the use of trade marks or trade labels.

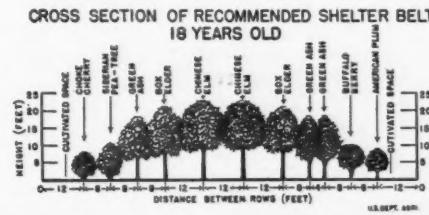
No packer or distributor shall ship any such products unless graded. Packers shall provide facilities and assistance necessary for the performance of the duties of the graders.

The secretary is authorized to collect reasonable fees to cover the costs of the service.

It shall be unlawful for any person to use the words "United States," "Government," or "Federal," when such grade is not one of the grades according to the standards.

## Seven Hardy Windbreak Trees

Seven broadleaf tree species out of eighteen tested for twenty years are recommended for windbreak planting in the northern Great Plains by the Division of Dry Land Agriculture of the Bureau of Plant Industry. They are Chinese elm, green ash, chokecherry, box elder, Siberian pea tree, buffalo berry, and American plum.



The tests began in 1914 at Mandan, North Dakota. The willows, poplars, and birches began to die out a few years after planting, and most of them were gone by 1928. The Norway poplar survived better than other poplars, but the few that were planted had an exceptionally favorable location. It cannot be recommended where moisture is scanty.

The fact that nearly all trees of the seven species survived the 1915-34 period—of which 1917 to 1921 are the five driest consecutive years for the region on record—is pretty good proof that they are adapted to this dry climate with extremes of temperature, high winds, and a high rate of evaporation, say the men who conducted the experiment. To date the seven seem to be surviving the summer of 1936.

Average annual precipitation for the twenty years was less than 15 inches. Ten of these years had moisture much below that average. Extremes of temperature ranged from 110 degrees to 43 below zero. Average seasonal evaporation from a free water surface was nearly 35 inches.

An ideal windbreak for the northern Great Plains, based on the Mandan experiments, might include, beginning on the windward side, a row each of choke-

cherry, Siberian pea tree, green ash, box elder, two rows of Chinese elm, one of box elder, two of green ash, and one each of buffalo berry and American plum. It should include a clean cultivated strip at least twelve feet wide on each side. Other trees might be used, providing the low growing trees are kept to the outside. Similar arrangement of adapted trees is effective farther south in the Great Plains.

## New Russian Grass

A Russian grass recently introduced under the botanical name *Calamagrostis epigejos* and sometimes erroneously called "Chee" grass has possible value in semiarid regions, although under more humid conditions the plant gives every evidence of becoming a dangerous weed, warns the Department of Agriculture.

The true Chee grass (*Lasiagrostis splendens*) was introduced from Russia twenty years ago. It is a bunch grass without underground stems or rootstocks, shows no tendency to spread, is not difficult to eradicate, and gives no indication of becoming a pest.

The more recent importation, which is being distributed commercially as "Chee" grass, has been under close scrutiny of department field stations and state experiment stations for the past ten years.

Under semiarid or dry-land farming conditions this species has shown exceptional ability to withstand drought and endure alkali conditions. Unlike the true Chee grass, it is a vigorous spreading type of grass with abundant underground stems or rhizomes. These stems often reach a length of two to four feet.

Growth starts early in the spring, the department tests have shown. The new shoots are palatable and nutritious. As the grass nears maturity, however, it becomes coarse or harsh and no longer is relished by cattle. The seeds are usually of low germination. They are also light and fluffy and cannot be sown satisfactorily with a grain drill.

## "FEEDS AND FEEDING"

Publication of the twentieth edition of *Feeds and Feeding*, by F. B. Morrison, professor of Animal Husbandry and Animal Nutrition and head of the Animal Husbandry Department, Cornell University, is announced by the Morrison Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York. The book presents the important facts concerning both the science and practice of feeding and caring for farm animals. Information is given about the composition, uses, and value of feeding stuffs that are of any importance for live stock in this country. It summarizes the results of thousands of experiments on various problems in live-stock feeding and nutrition. The price of the book is \$5.

## Northern Virginia Cattle Farmers

**The Northern Virginia Cattle Farmer Never Bets on His Feed; His Pastures Get Proper Stocking and Proper Seasonal Use**

BY C. S. ROBINSON

IT is an axiom that feed, its quality and abundance, determine to a great extent profit or loss in the live-stock business.

The limestone belt of northern Virginia contains some of the finest pasture land I have ever seen. Kentucky blue grass (*Poa pratensis*) grows naturally, and, provided reasonable treatment is given, will provide a continuous yield of highly nutritious forage year after year. This pasture land, or its equivalent, is the backbone of a live-stock industry anywhere.

Twelve years ago I had charge of just such a pasture and have had a chance to see it again. It is better than ever, and the owner told me it has always provided excellent feed, the actual yield varying only with climatic changes, as with such a dense sod adequate rainfall during the summer months is a necessity.

### Cardinal Principles

Successful management of these pasture lands is based upon the same old fundamentals that govern, or should gov-

ern, range management on any grazing area; namely, (1) proper stocking and (2) proper seasonal use. These two things are paramount, whether you run ten head in Connecticut or ten thousand in the Northwest. The cattlemen of northern Virginia are apparently well aware of what will happen if these two cardinal principles are disregarded.

The method of operation is largely that of buying feeders in the late fall or early spring. These cattle are mostly two-year-old's or long yearlings and are purchased in small lots locally or in car-loads from states as far south as Texas. In most cases the operator raises 30 to 50 per cent of the number needed and if he is unsuccessful in securing the right type of feeders outside will plan to board the surplus of his neighbors. This method of doing business, you can readily see, precludes any funny ideas about numbers. A man has got to know what his fields will carry and what they ought to look like at the end of the year. The pasture is the milk cow, so to speak, and will only yield so much, and you are

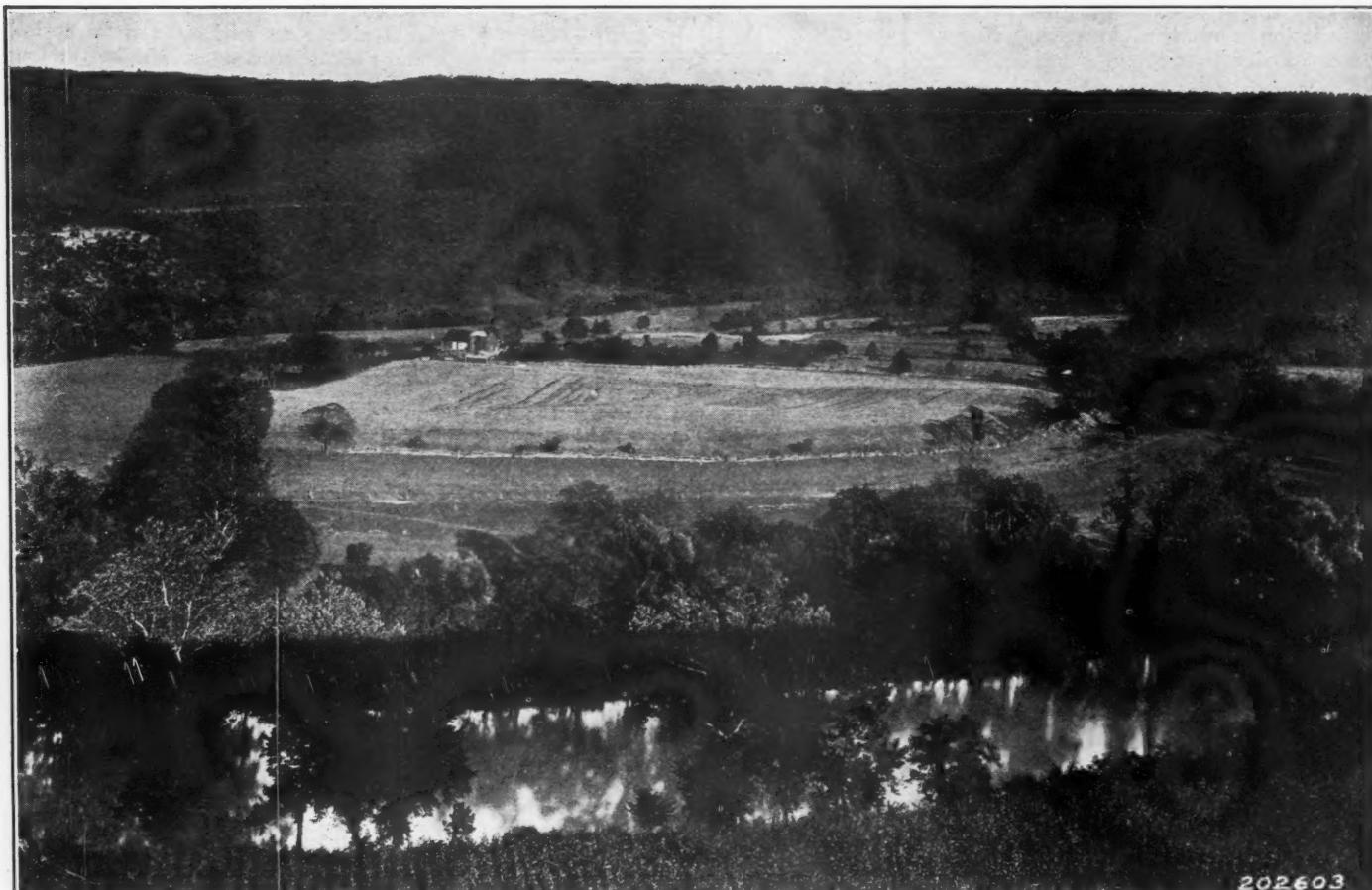
riding for a fall if you try to crowd the old girl.

### Spring Stocking

Commencing with the spring, the cattle purchased the year before or held over are kept in the large yards or small paddocks and fed plenty of hay, corn-stover, corn, and ensilage. The yards have three-sided sheds for protection and large racks for feeding roughage. The trampled material makes good manure to be used as a top-dressing on arable lands. No stock is allowed on the main pastures until the sod is firm and fresh growth well started. Often a Cambridge ring-roller is run over the fields about this time to keep the turf even and compact.

Only about 30 per cent of the total that are to use a pasture are allowed on the first week or so, then as the grass increases the remainder are put in. About this time small boys are given a job pulling out any weeds that show up ahead of the grasses, and this task, by the way, goes on throughout the summer. Any time you walk around looking at the stock and you see a thistle or something else that does not belong there you pull it up or hoe it out.

After all the cattle have been in the pasture awhile and the range, as we would say, is "fully stocked," the owner watches the choicest feed areas closely to check up on his estimate of carrying



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VIEW FROM "VALLEY PIKE" OF RICH SHENANDOAH VALLEY IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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capacity. He will tell you that this is part of the routine work, just as an orchardist thins his crop lest the trees break down and the size of the fruit be small. The cattle farmer in this country has learned his husbandry early in the game from his father, or he's listened to what his successful neighbors or farm agents have told him. In any event, he seems to know pretty well what the results will be if he damages the veritable roots of his major food supply.

Right now seems to me a good time to emphasize this forage viewpoint. Few, if any, Virginia cattlemen will jeopardize their feed bank account by doubling up or increasing numbers to any extent when prices are low, unless they have the pasturage to handle them or plenty of feed stocked up in the yards. If they have to carry over to next year, they do not want to be caught short and pay the correspondingly high prices of feed shortage. In other words, these men appear to weigh their feed resources carefully and value them accordingly.

#### Fall Chores

Towards the fall, with the heaviest steers taken out, the use of the pasture is decreased. About this time a top dressing of well-rotted manure mixed with soil and gas lime or crushed limestone rock is spread over the places where the turf is poorest and showing signs of wear. After this comes the harrows—chain or seeder type with the teeth well sloped. This scatters the manure and spreads more evenly the fertilizers, breaks up old piles and scatters the molehills, etc. Finally, any tall weeds that have escaped the hoeing crew are cut out, and fences repaired, shade trees cleaned up, and gates looked over.

Cattle left in the fields are usually provided with a three-sided shelter—an admirable safeguard against excessive loss of condition from wind and exposure. Renters and stock cattle taken in for board are checked up, and more taken in for the winter if the owner figures there is sufficient feed left to carry them.

#### No Cowpunchers

When a bunch of steers are moved to a shipping point, the entire proceeding is carried out in a most orderly fashion. You rarely see a man on horseback, and the sight of a cowpuncher flashing off to cut back a straying steer with the aid of a quirt and plenty of yells is impossible. One thing in favor of this orderliness is the fences—and there are plenty of those. All the drivers are afoot, though maybe the fellow up ahead will be mounted. There is no noise, nothing is hurried, and slowly, slowly the fat ones are literally shepherded to the place of embarkation.

Maybe it is because the stock are used to seeing people and are pretty well tamed, as you can walk up to within fifty yards of a bunch of stock in a big pasture and it will not worry about you much. But they certainly are wild

enough, those that come in from the outside, and the trip from the unloading chutes to the pastures is one mad scramble. I have seen steers spread all over Loudoun County when several carloads from Texas were being herded along the roads. They did not seem to comprehend these stout oak posts and rail fences and would butt into them first, then rear up and scramble over the top. Dogs are not used much; in fact, the only dogs I remember around the farms were a few old coon-dogs or an old pointer who seemed to be wistfully waiting for the partridge season to open.

Nowadays, with fox-hunting the great sport, the farmers seem to be worried about the riders crossing the pastures. Usually, if any stock is inside, the fox-hunting gentry will keep out anyway, and most of the owners have refused permission to cross their good blue-grass fields because of damage to the sod. So you see, they keep thinking of that old pasture land all the time.

#### Things To Be Learned

A visit to any of these cattle farmers—stockmen if you like, only I think of them as cattle farmers—is an education; but be sure to leave your comparisons at home when you go a-visiting. You will miss the spaciousness of our western large-sized outfits, the scattered buildings and corrals, and you will feel the lack of untidiness that seems to be a part of our smaller outfits' headquarters. Can you imagine a cow ranch without a bunch of ponies, or a barn without a stock saddle hanging up astraddle of the horse stalls, or a harness rack without a lariat and a few quirts?

The conditions are very different, to be sure, and so are the methods of operation. But there are many things to be learned from these Old Dominions that I guess we could use to good advantage. I was impressed again at the good management principles used. To repeat, they regard their pastures—range in our case—as the basis for calculating the size and stability of their operations. They do not buy cattle and bet or guess the feed will be there to take care of them; they know to a mighty close number just what their fields, pastures, or range—it is all the same—will support. Lots of our western stockmen do this, too, but lots do not. The idea of figuring that if the rains come all will be well, and if they do not it is too bad, does not fit into their schemes or plans at all, and I am pretty well convinced that they are right at that.

#### Range Provided for Bighorns

A million-acre federal game range for Nelson's mountain sheep, or desert bighorns, and other wild life has been established in southern Nevada by an executive order of President Roosevelt. Before unrestricted hunting reduced the number of bighorns to small scattered



THEY BUTT THE "BARREL CACTUS" TO GET FOOD

bands, these mountain sheep were widely distributed in the rugged arid sections of the Southwest. Since then most western states have enacted laws protecting bighorns throughout the year.

The range, to be known as the Desert Game Range, surrounds the Dixie National Forest and is located in Clark and Lincoln counties. Its high, narrow desert mountain ranges once contained large bands of bighorns, says the Biological Survey. The executive order makes primary provisions for a maximum number of 1,800 bighorns on the range. Should a surplus occur, the extra animals would probably be used to stock other ranges or afford hunting on a limited scale to avoid overgrazing the range. In addition to mountain sheep, Gambel's quail and other wild life will receive protection and encouragement on the area.

Under the order the Secretary of Agriculture is to administer the conservation and development of wild life in the area, and the Secretary of the Interior is to regulate public grazing on the range. Natural forage resources, the order says, "shall first be utilized for the purpose of sustaining 1,800 Nelson's mountain sheep, the primary species, and such non-predatory secondary species in numbers as may be necessary to maintain a balanced wild-life population, but in no case shall the consumption of forage by the combined species be allowed to increase the burden of the range dedicated to the primary species."

The Desert Game Range is the second hereditary range for big-game animals to be established by executive order in connection with the organization of western grazing districts for live stock under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. The first range, the Hart Mountain-Charles Sheldon Addition, occupying 1,136,000 acres in southern Oregon and northern Nevada, was set up September 6, 1935. It joins the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge in northern Nevada and is used primarily as a range for antelope, mule deer, and sage grouse.

In recent years desert bighorns have shown little, if any, increase in number, the Biological Survey reports. Local extinction in many sections was due to unrestricted hunting. Mountain sheep, however, commonly bear twins and under favorable conditions multiply rapidly, say the biologists.

### Cold Storage Lockers

Refrigerated storage lockers now in use in Idaho are estimated to number between 8,000 and 10,000 says the *National Provisioner*, reporting on a survey conducted recently by the department of agricultural engineering of the University of Idaho. Twenty-four community refrigeration enterprises are in operation in that state. Three hundred and thirty individual storage lockers is the average for each plant.

"Community refrigeration enterprises are increasing in popularity in Idaho, and more of them are being built, particularly in closely settled rural areas served by good roads," the report brings out.

Produce stored in the community plants is principally meat, butter, cheese, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and game in season. Some of the plants have cold-storage rooms where large quantities of butter, eggs, or cheese may be stored, one having a commercial storage capacity for 125 to 135 carloads.

About 48 per cent of the enterprises are privately owned; 52 per cent co-operatively owned. A typical plant serves an area within a radius of fifteen miles.

### Swift Sells Stock Yards

An order approving the sale of Swift and Company stock-yards holdings to the United Stock Yards Corporation, organized by John DeWitt, of Chicago, was signed on August 13 by Justice Jennings Bailey, of the United States District Court of the District of Columbia.

Negotiations for the sale, made necessary by the terms of the so-called Packers' Consent Decree of 1920, have been under way for several months. The agreed price under the contract is \$7,324,470. Included in the deal, although not all are affected by the decree, are:

The Sioux City Stock Yards Company, Milwaukee Stock Yards Company, Portland Union Stock Yards Company, South San Francisco Union Stock Yards Company, Brighton Stock Yards Company, St. Paul Union Stock Yards Company, Fort Worth Stock Yards Company, and Union Stock Yards of Toronto, Ltd.

G. F. Swift, president of Swift and Company, points out that "the sale of our interests in the stock yards in no way affects our present method of doing

business nor our contacts with our customers. Our packing plants, branch houses, and other parts of our business are not affected."

### Is the Drought Breaking?

Intimation that the drought may be beginning to break comes from announcement of release from emergency classification of a county in Wyoming. That still leaves, to be sure, over a thousand counties on the list. Another encouraging sign is the September corn crop estimate. It is a little higher than last month's—1,458,295,000 bushels against 1,439,135,000. But the wheat forecast fell by 2,500,000 bushels.

Out in the western drought range section generally—the western Dakotas, eastern Montana, northeastern Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma—continued lack of rains and high August temperatures made further inroads on range and pasture. Conditions also became worse in parts of Texas and eastern New Mexico. But there were improvements—slight in western Nebraska, marked in all of Colorado. And, reports the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates, ranges are good in the mountain and western section of Montana and Wyoming, and in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and California, and on the high ranges in New Mexico and Arizona. The drought has necessitated purchase of only a few thousand cattle.

### Diet with Meat

Whether you belong to the "would-be-thin" class of persons and wish to lose extra poundage, or the "bean-pole" type and wish to increase your weight, you can build your diet around meat and accomplish either result, says Dr. Leo K. Campbell, of Rush Medical College, Chicago, who recently completed a weight-gaining study sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

It is all very simple when explained, the doctor pointed out. In the case of the reducing diet the meat is lean, with all visible fat removed, while in the weight-gaining diet the fat need not be cut away.

After carrying on studies with reducing patients on a diet in which meat was allowed in all three meals, Dr. Campbell began studies with underweight persons. These studies showed that the average weekly gain on a diet containing .75 to 1 pound of meat daily was 1.5 pounds.

Observations were carried on with persons in all walks of life, including housewives, clerks, stenographers, an accountant, a high-school boy, an executive, a private secretary, and a nurse. A typical day's weight-gaining diet as served to these patients included, in addition to meat, such foods as eggs, milk and cream, salads, fruits and vegetables,

bread, butter, and coffee. The diet proved of value in having a beneficial effect upon the general health.

The importance of meat in this study is explained as due to the fact that it furnishes so many of the food constituents necessary to health, such as high-quality protein, iron, phosphorus, vitamins, etc. Another contributing factor is the increased palatability of the meals containing meat.

### Business Conditions

The summer trade season has come to a satisfactory close during the past month, reports the National City Bank of New York in its September review of economic conditions.

Fifteen to 20 per cent industrial and trade gains over 1935 for a three-month period are reported. General indexes rose in July to a new high for the recovery period. More money than in a good many years has been spent on travel and vacation, and July railway earnings more than doubled over a year ago. Retail sales in July were 18 per cent better than a year ago and are believed to have made satisfactory gains in August. Cotton mills are operating at a better rate than in the spring, and at the highest summer rate on record. Steel reports are favorable. Automobile sales continue to exceed expectations. Capital goods lines continue to show improvement. Business looks for a favorable fourth quarter.

### The Calendar

- Oct. 3-10—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- Oct. 3-11—Texas Frontier Centennial Live Stock Exposition, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Oct. 12-13—Convention of Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago.
- Oct. 17-24—American Royal Live Stock and Horse Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- Oct. 25-31—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- Nov. 9-13—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
- Nov. 19-20—Convention of California Wool Growers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- Nov. 28-Dec. 5—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- Dec. 11-12—Convention of California Cattlemen's Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- Dec. 14-19—Great Western Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
- Jan. 8-14, 1937—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- Jan. 12-14—Convention of American National Live Stock Association, El Paso, Tex.
- Jan. 16-23—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- March 12-21—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Ft. Worth, Tex.

# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
IN THE INTEREST OF THE  
LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY

BY THE  
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK  
ASSOCIATION PUBLISHING COMPANY

Subscription: One Year, \$1; Three Years, \$2.75;  
Six Years, \$5. Advertising Rates on Request

515 COOPER BUILDING, DENVER, COLO.

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Vol XVIII SEPTEMBER, 1936 No. 4

## EDITORIALS

### Range Conservation

SO FAR western stockmen have maintained their independent standing in the field of agriculture and have been able to go through the depression without having to lean too heavily on the government. Few other agricultural groups can say as much.

It is true that 8,000,000 cattle were bought by Uncle Sam in the drought of 1934. That was a great help, but the government got value received. The price paid was low; the government got 800,000,000 pounds of canned beef for the needy; it turned thousands of animals over to the Indian Service; it distributed substantial amounts of fresh beef; it still has on hand a stock of hides.

It is also true that the Farm Credit Administration helped, but this help has been of the practical character that puts stock and ranch financing on a permanent business-like basis, as distinguished from emergency help, which does not look to the root of the problem.

Various efforts, recorded in **THE PRODUCER** from time to time, have been made in the past two or three years to bring the western live-stock industry under the same rule of thumb that was being applied to most other agricultural groups. It is not necessary to restate these now. At the time of the January convention of the American National Live Stock

Association at Phoenix it was thought that the invalidation of the Agricultural Adjustment Act by the Supreme Court had written finis on all moves in this direction. However, hasty substitution of the Soil Conservation Act reopened the subject, and in March a meeting was held at Salt Lake City to consider whether it was practical to bring the live-stock industry into the picture and work out some program to benefit payments.

It has long been the boast of the AAA that no program would be put into effect with regard to any commodity group unless it was desired by a majority of that group. If this rule had been carried out with respect to a live-stock range program, and if such a program had been fairly considered on its merits at representative live-stock meetings in the western country, there can be little doubt as to the result. The great majority of stockmen still want to maintain their independent stand. Here and there, there is a difference of opinion, particularly in areas which have been in the center of the drought the past three years and where large acreages have been unwisely put to the plow. The majority opinion, however, as expressed almost unanimously at the recent Executive Committee meeting of the American National Live Stock Association, does not favor such a program on a benefit-payment basis, with its active threat of processing taxes to follow.

The live-stock industry, as such, however, is not being allowed to decide for itself whether it desires a range-conservation program. Many meetings have been held for tentative discussion, but no opportunity given for forthright expression. Now it is announced from Washington that a program has been developed and that it has been approved by Secretary Wallace and apparently will now be made available to such stockmen as desire it on a voluntary basis, without further submission to their organized groups for acceptance or rejection. Originally, live-stock reduction had been the major point in any discussion of range conservation. The severity of the drought forced revamping the proposed program to minimize live-stock reduction, because markets will be flooded with shipments from drought areas without any urging from government sources. Various substitutes have been proposed—payments for deferred grazing, for grazing hay meadows in order to reduce grazing on ranges, construction of water holes, removal of sagebrush, seeding of native or tame grasses, pasture contouring or terracing, fencing for regulation of grazing, eradication of poisonous weeds, rodent and insect control, diversion of water from gullies, contour listing, etc., etc. After all is said and done, however, the major method of range conservation is reducing the number of animal units grazed, and live-stock men have been unable to appreciate the desirability of taking any step in this direction at a

time when undue encouragement is being given to the importation of foreign products to compete with those we produce.

It can be conceded that there is much of merit in many of the suggestions advanced. Advocated by a regular department of the government on a demonstration and educational basis, much good could be accomplished. The more conservative stockmen, however, question whether it is fundamentally sound for Uncle Sam to be making benefit payments to stockmen for the construction of range conserving improvements upon private property, especially at a time when, despite the greatest peace-time national income our government has ever enjoyed, it has just been announced by President Roosevelt that the deficit for the current fiscal year will approximate \$2,000,000,000. It seems beyond question, regardless of the outcome of the national election, that there will be renewed pressure next year for a balanced budget. That being the case, it can hardly be expected that another \$500,000,000, such as was appropriated this year, will again be made available for the purposes of the Soil Conservation Act unless financed indirectly by a processing tax on the commodities to be benefited.

The live-stock range-conservation program just announced at this late date can hardly have any important application in the calendar year 1936. Eventually, stockmen will have to decide whether they prefer to do their own range improving at their own expense or whether they want Uncle Sam to do it and to submit their product to a processing tax to replenish his coffers. This easy money is soon going to be a thing of the past, and you are going to have to pay for what you get. Many fear that a live-stock program, with scant benefits available, and those limited to application to either privately owned or leased lands (public domain and national forests necessarily excluded), may easily cost the industry in processing taxes many times any possible amount of benefits which could be made available.

### Canada's Exports

EVER since the reciprocal trade agreement with Canada was proposed, the American National Live Stock Association has bitterly opposed it for the reasons (1) that it increased competition at a time when the domestic cattle industry was just recovering from the combined shocks of world-wide depression and extensive drought, and (2) that it established a precedent for the general lowering of tariff walls.

Reams of official publicity have been put out to show that the reciprocal trade pact policy will not hurt American cattlemen; that most of the surplus from Canada and Mexico would come to this country anyway; that our export trade

would be so stimulated that cattlemen would be benefited indirectly more than they would be hurt by the increase in direct competition. A few have accepted this doctrine, but those who seek in this fashion to lift themselves up by their own boot-straps are wholly overshadowed by the preponderant majority of cattle producers of the nation who stand firm in the belief that the American producer is entitled to the American market to the full extent of his ability to supply it.

If any proof were needed as to the soundness of the position taken by the American National, it is found in a dispatch sent out from Montreal over the *Chicago Tribune* leased wire. It shows the rising exports from that country to the United States due to the cut in the tariff, just as it shows the protection which the cattle industry of this country received when the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act went into effect.

The dispatch, dated September 8, reads as follows:

"Canada's exports of cattle and calves to the United States are nearing the 200,000 mark for the year 1936 to date, having now reached the total of 182,293 head, according to the Dominion Live Stock Branch Office of Estimates. It is made up of 137,651 cattle and 44,642 calves.

"Indications are that shipments for the entire year will reach the highest levels since 1928, when 278,293 head of cattle and calves went across the border.

"In 1930, the year before the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Law went into effect [the law became effective in June, 1930], the exports were 232,271 head. In 1931, they fell to 36,908; in 1932, they were only 22,236 head; in 1933, they amounted to 5,686; and in 1934, they were 6,567 head, showing that the United States can do practically without Canadian cattle when the bars are up high enough and when normal conditions prevail.

"In 1935 the drought and consequent higher United States cattle market enabled Canada to ship cattle over the Smoot-Hawley tariff walls, and 132,633 head were shipped in. This year trade has been aided by the reciprocal pact, which cut the duties 1 cent per pound."

## Auction Sale Rings

FOR fifteen years past the subject of direct marketing has been argued pro and con whenever live-stock men have gathered. Representatives of the central markets have kept up a continuous propaganda against the practice of direct selling, offering voluminous arguments in an attempt to prove that it adversely affects market prices. Finally the matter became of such concern that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at Washington undertook an

exhaustive survey to determine what effect direct marketing might have upon live-stock prices, and its report, issued a year ago last spring, failed to substantiate the claim of the supporters of the central markets.

THE PRODUCER has long argued that the marketing agencies were following the wrong course—that if anywhere near the sum of money which had been spent in fighting direct marketing had been spent in improving services at the central markets, and if there had been genuine co-operation in eliminating practices which shippers found not to their liking, they would have much more to show for their time and money. However, they had a deaf ear to any and all suggestions and apparently could not adapt themselves to new conditions. As a result, it is rather startling to note, in July, 1936, almost 20 per cent of the cattle, 25 per cent of the calves, 46 per cent of the hogs, and 21 per cent of the sheep and lambs slaughtered under federal inspection were purchased at other sources than at the stock-yards. The percentage has been steadily increasing, year by year.

During the last year or two there has been a sudden new development in the way of a mushroom growth of auction sale rings throughout central-market territory. So far as fat stock is concerned, it appears to have had little effect upon central markets, because a very large percentage of the fat stock sold in such auction rings soon finds its way to the central markets for final disposition. That is not the case, however, with feeder live stock—the mainstay of the auction rings—as a large percentage goes right back to the country in the immediate vicinity of the sale point, thus providing an economic service all around. Substantial shipments are made to feeder buyers in the Corn Belt, and the remainder goes into speculators' hands, quite often showing up at one or the other of the long-established markets.

It is too early to attempt to forecast what the future of the auction markets may be; but it is not too early to say that this method of marketing has a tremendous appeal to the average live-stock producer. First, he likes actually to see his live stock sold, and he can do so in a nearby auction ring without going far from home. Second, he wants all the competition available, and anyone can bid in a public auction. It is a constant complaint of shippers that speculators have been shown too much favoritism in many markets—that they often buy strings of cattle with other bidders waiting in the alley and never having a chance. And perhaps in this can be found the biggest reason for the decline of the central markets as the main method of marketing feeder live stock.

No doubt in the hasty development of the new type of marketing there will

be many mistakes made. There should be regulation as to weights, efficient brand inspection, and careful sanitary measures enforced to prevent the spread of disease. The American National Live Stock Association gave special attention to this matter at its recent Executive Committee meeting in Denver, and its Legislative Committee was charged with the responsibility of carefully considering state and federal regulatory legislation which might be in the interest of live-stock producers generally.

To meet this rapidly-changing situation, the new management of the Ogden stock-yards has announced that a weekly auction sale will soon be inaugurated on that market. The sale will be held on Thursdays. The expense of handling through the ring will be identical with shipments sold at private sale by the regular commission men, and the shipper will have the option of private or auction sale, as he desires. If results are not satisfactory, shipments can move on to another market and be offered for sale the first of the following week.

This is an innovation which some of the leaders of the American National have long urged. L. C. Brite, past president of the association, experimented in holding auction sales in the Corn Belt until his cattle became so well known that buyers came to his own door and he had no further occasion to seek them. He has long advocated, however, that auction sales should be installed in central markets, his conviction on this point resulting from personal observations indicating the need of some system which insured free and open competitive bidding. The Ogden experiment will be watched with interest. If successful, it will no doubt soon be copied by other markets. The auction method is now employed almost altogether in the sale of purebred cattle and all kinds of horses, although some years ago horses were consigned and sold at private sale just as the majority of live stock is today.

Today the whole market structure is in a state of flux. Only one thing is certain—that the time is past for walling as to the ill effects of direct buying. Markets which keep up on their toes and co-operate with the producers will make a go of it. Producers have given ample evidence, however, of their ability to do their own thinking as to what is good or what is bad for them, and their business is going to be attracted in the future on the basis of net results, and not on the basis of long worn-out arguments.

## Our Advertisers

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its best efforts. But the magazine has grown to perform another function as well—that of a medium through which the advertiser may display his wares for the consideration of the reader.

This, of course, is true in our case. But there is something more. When an advertiser uses THE PRODUCER he is employing a magazine the entire receipts of which go to help the live-stock industry. THE PRODUCER is an ally of the American National Live Stock Association, and its gain is the association's gain. This in turn sifts down to the stockman's benefit.

So we say to our readers: Patronize PRODUCER advertisers. And to the buyers of our advertising space we commend the continued use of a medium that serves a great industry as well as the advertisers' selling purpose.

### Robert M. Faddis

Robert M. Faddis died at his home at Sheridan, Wyoming, on August 1, after an illness of nearly a year. He was seventy-six years of age.

Fifty years of his life had been spent in the cattle business, first in Nebraska, and later in Montana and Wyoming.

He was a member of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, and had served as vice-president of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association and was one of its executive committeemen. He had also been president of the Wyoming-Montana Live Stock Protective Association for many years and was honorary president at the time of his death.

### C. L. Petrie

On July 30, C. L. Petrie, of New Windsor, Illinois, died. He was in his eighty-sixth year.

Mr. Petrie started buying and shipping cattle to the Chicago market back in 1881, continuing in that business until the time of his death.

He had been a member of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association for many years. Among his friends were numbered many cattlemen in the Nebraska Sand Hills area and in the West.

### G. L. Moore

G. L. Moore, of Glade Park, Colorado, pioneer stockman, died on July 24.

He came to Colorado in 1882 from North Carolina, first settling at La Veta. In 1888 he moved to Grand Junction, locating on what is known as Pinion Mesa, and in 1892 bought the ranch on which he was living at the time of his death. While not an extensive operator, Mr. Moore had run cattle constantly for almost a half century.

## WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

### Washington Notes

The Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, listed 16 national parks and 21 national monuments, giving the National Park Service, in the first year of its existence, jurisdiction over 37 areas with a total of 4,912,793 acres. Today the National Park Service is responsible for 26 national parks, 2 national historical parks, 67 national monuments, 11 national military parks, 10 battlefield sites, 4 miscellaneous memorials, 11 national cemeteries, and 3 parkways, totaling 15,589,821 acres or 24,202 square miles. In addition, areas in the District of Columbia total 6,986 acres.

\* \* \*

Farmers and live-stock growers "who have no other sources of credit" may apply for crop and feed loans to carry them through the rest of the year, assures the Farm Credit Administration. Farmers with equipment in winter-wheat territory could receive up to a maximum of \$400, with other crop loans and live-stock feed advances limited to \$200. The one type of loan was increased from \$200 to \$400 before the President started on his drought trip.

\* \* \*

The Cherokee National Forest has been enlarged to comprise 1,216,000 acres along the eastern boundary of Tennessee, by a proclamation signed by President Roosevelt, the Forest Service announces. Of this area 503,000 acres already have been purchased by the federal government. Part of the gross area is suited to farm or industrial use and will not be purchased by the government.

\* \* \*

An all-time high of \$33,779,000,000 was reached in the public debt of the United States at the close of the fiscal year on June 30. This compared with \$28,701,000,000 as of June 30, 1935. The gross public debt as of the 1936 date included bonds to the value of \$945,000,000 issued in payment of adjusted service certificates. At the close of the World War the national debt was \$26,596,000,000.

\* \* \*

Among the measures passed by Congress during the closing days of the recent session was a resolution directing the Federal Trade Commission to investigate firms engaged in the manufacture and sale of agricultural implements. The investigation is to de-

termine whether or not price-fixing and unfair trade practices are responsible for the comparative high prices of farm machinery.

\* \* \*

Local administrative costs of the 1936 soil conservation program in Nevada will be paid by the participating farmers. This method, it is believed, will be an incentive to keep expenses at a minimum, since they will be deducted from the benefit payments received by the farmers in the county themselves. Expenses of the state office will be carried by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

\* \* \*

The proposed 100-mile-wide shelterbelt that was to run down the middle of the country from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico recently appeared to be on its way to revival after having been virtually abandoned as impractical. Restoration of the project is reported to have been urged by several government agencies.

\* \* \*

The commercial agreement between the United States and Russia has been extended for a period of one year from July 13. The State Department in its announcement pointed out that during the eleven months ending May 31, 1936, the value of American products exported to Russia was \$33,900,000.

\* \* \*

A seed-grain purchase program was started in August under which the government plans to buy \$10,000,000 worth of seed grain which would be held until next spring and sold at cost plus storage charges.

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# OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

## Transportation

**Growers Upheld; Carriers Examined; Lawyers Oppose Section 4**

BY CHAS. E. BLAINE

THE Interstate Commerce Commission on August 8 held that the arrangement whereby the fat-stock rates apply on stockers and feeders destined to Los Angeles and feed yards within its switching district and the 85 per cent basis of rates concurrently applies on the same class of stock to private feed yards in southern California outside the Los Angeles switching district was not shown to be unjust and unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory, unduly prejudicial or preferential, or in violation of the aggregate-of-intermediate clause of Section 4, or in violation of Section 6, of the Interstate Commerce Act. Therefore the commission ordered the complaints of the California Cotton Oil Corporation and the Globe Grain and Milling Company dismissed.

The history of these proceedings is stated on page 20 of the November, 1935,

and page 25 of the July, 1936, issues of **THE PRODUCER**.

The live-stock producers represented by the American National Live Stock Association, National Wool Growers' Association, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, and the Arizona Wool Growers' Association intervened at the hearing in support of the allegation of unreasonableness of the fat-stock rates applying on stockers and feeders to Los Angeles and the feed yards within the switching district thereof, but in opposition to the allegation that the 85 per cent basis of rates contemporaneously applying to private feed yards outside the Los Angeles switching district in southern California were unduly preferential of said points and unduly prejudicial to Los Angeles and the feed yards located within the switching district thereof. The producers did not offer any evidence as to the alleged unreasonableness of the rates to Los Angeles, but directed their efforts solely to defending the 85 per cent basis of rates to the outside feed yards. The issue of undue preference and prejudice in these proceedings was not new. It was raised in the second hearing in the

*Western Live Stock Case* by the Pacific Cottonseed Products Corporation, the predecessor company of complainant California Cotton Oil Corporation. In this respect, the commission in its decision in said case stated:

"A witness appearing in behalf of the Pacific Cottonseed Products Corporation, which operates a public feed yard at Los Angeles, testified that shipments of stocker live stock will be made to points intermediate to markets with injurious effect on the carriers' revenue not contemplated when our decision was rendered."

Following the quoted statement of the commission, the situation was carefully analyzed by the entire commission and apparently rejected as unsound. On oral argument in the instant proceeding, representative of the California Cotton Oil Corporation admitted that this proceeding was a collateral attack on the decision of the entire commission in the *Western Live Stock Case*.

The railroads supported the views of the producers throughout these proceedings. Such action on their part is appreciated by the producers.

### Maximum Hours for Motor Carriers

The commission on July 30 inaugurated, on its own motion, two investigations regarding motor carriers. The first, *Ex Parte No. BMC 2*, is the matter of maximum hours of service of employees of common carriers and contract carriers of passengers and property by motor vehicles and of employees of private carriers of property by motor vehicles. The second, *Ex Parte No. BMC 3*, is the matter of need for establishing reasonable requirements to promote safety of operation of motor vehicles used in transporting property by private carriers.

### Lawyers Oppose Section 4 Clause

According to the *United States Law Week*, the American Bar Association in its recent convention adopted a resolution recommending repeal of the long-and-short-haul clause of Section 4 of the Interstate Commerce Act.

The resolution is diametrically opposed to the recommendations of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Federal Co-ordinator of Transportation. The resolution of the lawyers is no doubt grounded upon the fact that prior to the enactment of Section 4 in its present form, prolonged and burdensome litigation which finally reached the Supreme Court was had. Since the present provisions of said section became the law, there has been very little, if any, litigation in the courts with respect thereto. In this respect the commission in its report to Congress stated:

"When originally enacted in 1887, the prohibition contained in this section against charging higher rates for shorter than for longer distances was qualified by the words, 'under substantially similar circumstances and conditions.'



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stantially  
ditions.'

Some of the carriers immediately took the position that in view of this qualification they were not prohibited from charging higher rates for shorter than for longer distances where the circumstances and conditions were dissimilar. . . . The effect of . . . decision virtually was to nullify the prohibition contained in Section 4, as it was and is always possible to show, 'in the interlacing network of railways in this country and in view of the intricate commercial conditions,' that circumstances and conditions at one point are different from those prevailing at another. The carriers thereupon proceeded to charge higher rates for shorter than for longer distances wherever they considered the conditions at the more distant point were different from those at the intermediate points. This practice was especially prevalent in that section of the country lying west of the Continental Divide and east of the Pacific Coast, sometimes referred to as Intermountain Territory, and in the southern and southwestern sections of the United States, and resulted in widespread dissatisfaction and complaint from those sections. The early reports of the commission are replete with cases involving rates of this character. The conditions resulting from this practice became so aggravated and acute that insistent demands were made upon Congress for remedial legislation, and this culminated in the passage of the amendment to Section 4 of June 18, 1910, in which Congress sought to accomplish the desired result by striking from Section 4 the qualifying words, 'under substantially similar circumstances and conditions.' Since this amendment, it has been necessary for carriers to obtain permission from the commission before they could establish lower rates for longer than for shorter distances."

## Farm Land Taxes Reduced

A 36 per cent reduction in farm real estate taxes per acre from the year 1929 through 1935 is shown by reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The tax last year averaged about 37 cents an acre the country over, although it varied in different sections. This compared with 58 cents in 1929. The 1929 rate was the highest in history.

Farm taxes doubled between the years 1900 and 1913, and doubled again during the next seven years. In 1920 the tax per acre was four times that in 1900. In 1928 and 1929 it was nearly five times that in 1900. Now it is about three times the 1900 levy.

The sharp rise in taxes from 1900 through 1929 is attributed largely to rapid expansion in local and state service—chiefly road building and education. There was, however, a rise of about 73 per cent in the general price level during this period, and likewise a rise in the prices of things a government buys.

# THE MARKETS

## August Markets

Cattle and Swine Perform Creditably; Live Mutton Lags

BY JAMES E. POOLE

Liquidation of live stock has been responsible for arresting an inevitable advance in prices. Not that markets have been congested; on the contrary, the bulk of current meat production has been readily absorbed, as indicated by storage statistics, but every advance in live-stock prices has met prompt response in receipts. The immediate effect of continued drought was to throw a considerable number of short-fed steers into the market hopper and increase the supply of western grassers from the drought-stricken trans-Missouri area. All things reckoned with, both cattle and swine markets have been equal to creditable performances, although live-mutton trade has lagged.

During August, Chicago and Omaha absorbed a considerable number of heavy cattle weighing 1,300 to 1,500 pounds. Many of these had overstayed their logical market, were overdone, and unless showing quality and condition in combination had difficulty in getting over the scales. Scores of feeders made the mistake of putting weight on plain and rough heavy steers—the types that have no logical place in the scheme of beef production or distribution. They sold at a wide range of \$8.25 to \$9.75 per cwt., indicating payment of premiums for quality. Had the undesirable element been eliminated, the market would have been more satisfactory.

### Yearlings Do Well

Yearlings have had the play as usual, and the less weight they toted over the scales the more satisfactory was the market performance. Up to 1,250 pounds killers registered scant objection, choice Nebraska bullocks of that weight being responsible for the \$10.25 top; but other than the noted Attebury string, which regularly scored the Wednesday top, few bullocks sold above \$10. However, the proportion of corn-fed steers selling in the \$9 to \$9.75 range during August was large, only short-feds dropping below \$9, with the exception of plain and rough heavies, some of which had been in the feed-lot ten months to a year. Few of these big cattle figured profitably to feeders, killers always taking them under protest and at sharp dis-

counts. Under the \$8 line it has been a market for grass cattle or steers that had been fed a little corn on pasture—where grazing existed.

Practically all the "top" cattle were Herefords, a notable exception being a load of Thomas E. Wilson's purebred Shorthorns. A few Angus sold in the upper price bracket, but minus the Attebury contribution there would have been few sales above \$10. These Attebury cattle are in a class by themselves, although considerable skepticism is expressed as to their right to premiums. They were taken alternately by Swift, Armour, and Wilson, and would have been ineligible to the prices paid without merit. However, the spread between Attebury's contribution and other similar finished steers was narrowed this year, so that they actually sold on their merits.

At intervals the entire fat-cattle market disclosed a decidedly weak undertone, but that this was merely temporary was not open to dispute, as recovery has always been prompt. Early in August \$9.75 was the top on yearlings, the peak price gradually advancing to \$10.25. Few heavy steers sold above \$9.75 at any time, however, although a large percentage of receipts realized \$9 to \$9.50. Bulk of the corn-fed yearlings—straight steers or in mixed loads—realized \$8.75 to \$9.75. Yearlings were usually cleaned up before heavy cattle received consideration, and when a hold-over was necessary the bulk of it displayed weight. The moral is that the big steer has a limited sphere in beef distribution. This year's surplus was the logical result of the 1935 corn crop and high prices paid last year for weight,



### The Superior Calf Dehorner

The ideal tool for dehorning calves; strongest steel; weight, 1 1/4 pounds; length, 13 1/2 inches; highly recommended by veterinarians.

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which prompted feeders to lay in heavy cattle and carry them in an effort to nurse the market.

#### Fed Cattle Diminishing

At the inception of September there were plenty of cattle in sight to furnish an ample supply for probably another ninety days, as the run during the last week of August contained such a large percentage of bullocks weighing 1,300 pounds or more as to break prices 20 to 50 cents, while light and medium weights, including yearlings, showed scant loss. This has been a regular feature of the trade, even light steers lacking finish getting over the scales with celerity. Visible supply of corn-fed cattle is being steadily whittled down, however, and with the undertone showing strength on every light run, the trade opinion is conservatively bullish.

Yearling-heifer trade has been an outstanding feature, the Aetna Insurance Company's contribution, all native Herefords, realizing \$9.85 at the August peak, although thousands of fed heifers have sold in a range of \$9 to \$9.75 per cwt. Frequently heifers have topped the market on the day of arrival, and invariably they have been the first cattle sold. By the end of August marked scarcity of even decently fatted heifers developed, making a healthy trade for short-feds and grassers, which merely emphasized popular demand for light carcasses, as featherweights, 700 pounds down, figured in the higher price bracket. Even the \$5 to \$6.50 kinds of grass heifers were popular with the killers. Mixed loads of yearling steers and heifers, most of them "home-grown" or farm-bred, sold in a range anywhere from \$8.50 to \$9.75.

Other than western cows, most of them

dislodged by drought, actual scarcity existed. The tuberculosis campaign, now at the culmination stage, has reduced the supply of dairy cows to the semi-famine stage. Most of the western cows were thin, near-beef, or on the canner and cutter order, selling within a \$3.25 to \$4.50 range. Government support had a sustaining influence, not by actual purchase, but because potential buying power existed. Government buyers got few cows or heifers at Chicago, but were always ready to step in whenever the market dropped close to figures that were specified in the buying orders they held.

All things considered, the August cattle market was not discouraging, although few of the "big brutes" paid for their board. At intervals mild energy was displayed on the buying side, and had 50 per cent of the overdone steers been eliminated prices would probably have ruled 50 cents per cwt. higher. Eastern shipping orders were of respectable volume, although hot weather hampered beef distribution at the Atlantic seaboard to some extent.

#### Hog Products Advance

Considerable liquidation of sows and of light pigs weighing 80 to 120 pounds prevented the hog market from soaring, but at no time were packers able to put up Chicago droves as low as \$10 per cwt. The month's top was \$12.05, but rarely was \$11.80 passed, and on every bulge buying power weakened. Bulk of the good hogs weighing 180 to 250 pounds sold anywhere from \$11 to \$11.60 per cwt.; packing sows, within a range of \$8.50 to \$9.75; and underweights of 170 pounds down, \$9.50 to \$10.50. At western markets the proportion of pigs and sows was large, owing to drought

and a rising corn market. All hog products advanced to new levels, although the strength of lard was impaired to some extent by actual and prospective imports, duty free, of such oils as cottonseed, peanut, and soybean.

#### Lamb Market Slips

Live mutton was the weak feature of the ovine trade. Early in August a \$10.75 top was made on lambs, but by the end of the month \$9.75 was an outside price, bulk of the crop selling at \$9 to \$9.50. Supply was not excessive, Idaho, Oregon, and Wisconsin being responsible for most of the westerns, the run from that quarter yielding few feeders because packers took most of the second cuts at higher prices than feeders bid. Native lambs carried a few choice tops, but drastic sorting was necessary to make them, a large percentage of the farm-grown lambs selling from \$9 down. Toward the end of August feeders paid anywhere from \$7 to \$8.50 for lambs running from 40 to 60 pounds. Yearlings were scarce, and fat ewes found a narrow outlet at prices ranging from \$2.75 to \$4 per cwt. Revival of pastures by belated showers checked liquidation of native lambs late in August. Farm demand for breeding ewes was negligible, owing to lack of grass. Southern lambs ran out early in August, reducing killers to a supply of westerns plus a few natives.

#### Hides Advance, Trend Upward

BY J. E. P.

Hide prices showed a healthy pick-up recently. Volume has swelled, and a substantial increase in take-off is ignored. Advances range from 1 to 1½ cents per pound, and the trend is upward, even a dormant country hide market coming out of its recent comatose condition. The packer steer hide market has worked to an 11- to 13½-cent basis, packer cows are realizing 11 to 13 cents, and country hides are selling in a range of 7 to 9½ cents. Small packer hides are selling in a range of 9½ to 10½ cents; native cows and steers, at 10¼ to 10½ cents; branded cows and steers, at 9½ to 10 cents.

What has been termed "drought hysteria" set prices back in July, but this has been remedied by brisk demand for fall and winter footwear. Consumers purchases of summer footwear have broadened appreciably, reducing stocks and providing retailers with funds for fall and winter requirements. Shoe production during the first half of 1936 closely approximated that of the corresponding period of 1935, and demand for all kinds of leather has broadened since. Manufacturers are now cutting fall and winter shoes on an expanding scale, with every prospect of continuance.

The prospect for a healthy hide mar-

## FEEDER CATTLE

The Gila County Cattle Growers' Association maintains listings of feeder cattle for sale by cattlemen in Gila County, Arizona. Write or wire for complete information.

## GILA COUNTY CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 743

Globe, Arizona

ket has been improved by the fact that a \$30,000,000 distressed cattle buying campaign launched by the government when drought scares started has resulted in small purchases. During the 1934 drought the government accumulated a stock of hides that temporarily paralyzed the trade by creating an immense visible supply, but repetition of this is impossible now.

## Wool in Strong Position

BY J. E. P.

Wool prices have shown decided strength recently. Fleece wools have lagged but have shared in the advance. Inquiry is mainly for three-eighths blood fleeces at 38 and 39 cents, quarter blood selling at 37 cents. On a graded basis western wools are quoted in Boston at 70 to 87 cents, clean. After a prolonged inactive period, sales volume increased substantially, the assigned reason being heavy consumption during the first six months of 1936. According to latest available figures, 287,000,000 pounds of grease wool was absorbed by mills during the half-year, while total 1936 production is estimated at only 342,000,000 pounds. Reduced to a scoured basis, 140,000,000 pounds were consumed during the six months of 1935, against 131,000,000 pounds this year—a decrease of only 6½ per cent. A previous consumption estimate was a decrease of 40 per cent compared with last year. The immediate result of this was an increase of 100 per cent in mill buying. Evidently the statistical position of wool is much stronger than the trade has had reason to believe.

Foreign markets are somewhat disturbed by the murky European atmosphere, especially in consequence of civil war in Spain; but in view of possible spreading of that trouble the wool prices are not likely to be seriously disturbed. The situation is strong in every market in the world—a condition responsible for early overtures to contract fall clips in South America.

Renewed buying in the West is a sequence of the drought situation. In the buying wave, wool prices have advanced 1 cent per pound or more, small stocks of domestic wool and prospects for substantial demand justifying expectancy of a full foreign parity for domestic product during the fall and winter months.

Revival of interest in the goods market is noted, also increased activity at mill centers. Manufacturers have opened 1937 lines of tropical worsteds and are booking orders for winter resort trade at prices 10 to 15 cents a yard higher than a year ago. The heat wave this year won many converts to light summer fabrics, reducing stocks and paving the way for activity next summer. Manufacturers of women's wear report a

more active demand; garment makers report orders 15 per cent in excess of a year ago in fall lines of both cloakings and suitings.

Pre-shearing estimates of production in Australia show a slight reduction compared with 1935, but increases are forecast for South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Europe, and the Near East. Carry-overs in the Southern Hemisphere countries are materially below last year, and as Great Britain and the Continent have held imports close to consuming needs, stocks in these countries are not large. British sentiment shows improvement, but political and economic uncertainties still obscure the outlook in Belgium, France, Germany, and Italy.

Japan has imposed retaliatory restrictions on Australian imports, and as that country usually takes between 20 and 30 per cent of Australia's wool, these restrictions may exert some influence on Australian markets unless an understanding is reached. In any event, Japan must buy wool, and should she persist in withdrawing from the Australian market, she will be under the necessity of purchasing elsewhere, so that after all the net effect would be slight.

Evidently the stage is set for a cordial reception of the 1937 domestic wool clip.

month was 35,733 head, compared with 31,062 in August, 1935. For the year, including August, receipts were 290,000 head—50,000 over the corresponding period of 1935. Outlet at Denver is broad, and almost daily shipments are made to both the east and the west coasts. This, coupled with a strong demand for local consumption, is resulting in strong prices.

Good fat steers were selling early up to \$9. Later, choice kinds brought \$9.20, flat and freight paid, while at the peak one load of heavy steers made \$9.50, freight paid. Choice steers sold late at \$9 to \$9.35; fair kinds, \$8.25 to \$8.90. Choice heifers that sold early at \$8.75 to \$9.10 went to \$9 to \$9.40 late in the month. Grass heifers earned \$6.75 down, with a few making \$7.

Choice cows ranged from \$5 to \$5.50 early, to \$5 later, many going at \$4 to \$4.75. Canners and cutters closed at \$2.50 to \$3.75. Best bulls were \$5 to \$5.10, others were down to \$4. Calves sold mostly at \$9 at the close and opening, although on some mid-month sessions the top was \$8.

Choice Wyoming feeder steers topped during August at \$6.35, with others at \$5.50 to \$6. Most medium steers sold at \$4.50 to \$5.50. Heifers went to the country at \$5.50 down, and stock cows were \$3.50 to \$4.25.

### Sheep

Sheep and lamb prices dropped during August, and receipts increased. Lambs were mostly 50 to 75 cents lower at the close; ewes, 25 to 35 cents down. Total receipts were 310,285 head, compared with 215,328 in August, 1935. For the first eight months of the year receipts were 1,650,000 sheep and lambs—a lead over all markets. Chicago had 1,535,000.

Early in August good Colorado ranch lambs sold at \$10, with a peak of \$10.40. At the close good lambs were bringing \$9.25 to \$9.40. Western lambs sold early at \$10 and down to \$9.50. Later, desirable westerns brought \$9.25 down, many

## Denver Live Stock Market

BY W. N. FULTON

### Cattle

Fed heifers and steers advanced 25 to 40 cents at Denver during August, although some loss occurred during mid-month. Grass cattle lost 15 to 25 cents, with medium-grade cows losing more. Bulls were 25 to 40 cents lower, but late gains wiped out early loss on veals and calves and these closed steady.

Receipts were liberal. Total for the

## 750 HEREFORD CATTLE FOR SALE 750

200 Bulls, from weaners to two's  
50 Registered Cows and Heifers  
500 Long-Fed Heifers and Steers

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Auctioneer

selling at \$8.50 to \$8.90. Feeder lambs sold early at \$7.50 to \$7.85. Later, the best brought \$8; others, \$7.75 to \$7.90. Good fat ewes sold up to \$3.50 at the start of the month, but none got above \$3.25 toward the close. Many good kinds sold at \$2.50 to \$3; plainer ewes, down to \$1.50. Yearling ewes to go to the country sold up to \$5.25, with fair-to-good-mouthed breeders at \$2.50 to \$3.50.

#### Hogs

Butcher hogs advanced 50 to 65 cents during the month, with packing sows 50 to 75 cents higher. Feeders and stockers closed \$1 to \$1.50 lower. Arrivals totaled 26,746 head, compared with 20,629 last year.

Top hogs were \$11 on August 1; other desirable butchers reached \$10.75 and up. The peak price was \$11.80, in the third week. At the close \$11.50 was taking the best, and prices ranged down to \$11 on fair hogs. Packing sows were \$9.25 early, a top of \$9.75 taking the best late, while good kinds were \$9.50 to \$9.75; plainer sows, \$9.25. Feeder pigs sold at \$7 down; stags, \$9.25 down.

Receipts for the first eight months of the year were 300,000 head—30,000 more than during that period last year. Denver's prices frequently during the month were as high as Chicago's, showing a drawing of hogs from an ever widening area and evidencing the importance of hog production in this territory.

#### Live-Stock and Meat Situation

Declines ranging from 12 to 19 per cent in the wholesale prices of dressed lamb from levels prevailing at the close of July and a continuance of lower wholesale prices of beef and fresh pork at levels below those prevailing a year

ago featured the live-stock meat trade during August, according to a review of the situation issued by the Institute of American Meat Packers.

Marketings of live stock continued unusually large during the month. Hog marketings, although still below what is considered normal, were from 40 to 50 per cent greater than a year ago. Marketings of cattle continued heavy, as in recent months, and were from 5 to 10 per cent greater than during August last year. Substantial increases were noted in the number of calves marketed, although the number of lambs brought to market during the month, as in each of the four preceding months, was somewhat smaller than in the same month a year ago.

Consumer purchasing power, as measured by the most recent index of factory pay rolls of a large number of manufacturing industries, was about 20 per cent above the index at this time last year.

Very little change is noted in the export trade, which continued about the same as during the past few months.

The production of all meat products during August is estimated to have been apparently somewhat greater than during August last year. Although the production of pork was considerably greater than in the same period in 1935, it was somewhat less than normal. Production of lamb and mutton during August this year was smaller than in this month last year, but the heavy marketings of cattle increased the production of beef in this month substantially over production last year and greatly over that for the five-year average for August. Apparently a material increase in the production of lard occurred, although, as in the case of pork, production was below normal.

## Co-operative Marketing

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Buy your feeding animals the same way.

National Live Stock Marketing Association

160 North LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois

#### Chicago Prices

##### LIVE STOCK

	Sep. 1, 1936	Aug. 4, 1936	Sep. 3, 1935
SLTR. STEERS (1,100-1,500 lb):			
Choice ...	\$ 8.60- 9.75	\$ 8.25- 9.25	\$11.50-12.80
Good ...	7.75- 9.00	7.50- 8.40	10.00-11.50
SLTR. STEERS (900-1,100 lb):			
Choice ...	9.00- 9.75	8.40- 9.00	11.50-12.50
Good ...	8.00- 9.00	7.25- 8.40	9.50-11.50
SLTR. STEERS (900 lb up):			
Med. ...	6.75- 8.00	6.50- 7.50	7.50-10-00
FED. YOUNG STEERS:			
Good-Ch. ...	8.00- 9.75	7.25- 9.00	9.50-12.25
HEIFERS:			
Good-Ch. ...	6.75- 9.75	6.50- 9.25	9.00-11.75
COWS:			
Good ...	5.00- 6.00	4.75- 6.00	5.25- 6.25
CALVES:			
Good-Ch. ...	5.00- 8.00	5.25- 7.50	7.00-10.50
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS:			
Good-Ch. ...	5.75- 7.50	5.75- 7.00	7.25- 9.25
Com.-Med. ...	4.50- 5.75	4.25- 5.75	5.25- 7.25
HOGS:			
Med. Wts. 10.90-11.30	10.75-11.20	11.65-11.90	
LAMBS:			
Good-Ch. ...	9.00-10.15	9.25-10.75	8.60- 9.50
EWES:			
Good-Ch. ...	3.00- 4.00	3.00- 4.00	2.50- 3.50

##### WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

STEER (700 lb up):			
Choice ...	\$13.50-14.00	\$13.00-14.00	\$17.50-18.50
Good ...	12.50-13.50	12.00-13.00	15.00-17.50
STEER (500-700 lb):			
Choice ...	13.50-14.50	13.00-14.00	17.00-18.50
Good ...	12.00-13.50	12.00-13.50	14.00-17.00
YEARLING STEER:			
Choice ...	14.00-15.00	14.00-15.00	17.00-18.00
Good ...	12.50-14.00	12.50-14.00	14.00-17.00
COW:			
Good ...	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	10.00-12.00
VEAL:			
Choice ...	13.00-14.00	13.50-14.50	15.00-16.50
Good ...	11.50-13.00	12.50-13.50	14.00-15.00
LAMB:			
Choice ...	18.00-19.00	20.00-21.00	16.50-17.50
Good ...	16.00-18.00	18.00-20.50	15.50-16.50
MUTTON:			
Good ...	7.00- 8.00	8.00- 9.00	8.50- 9.50
PORK LOINS:			
8-12 lb. Av. 24.00-27.00	20.50-23.50	23.50-24.00	

#### Live Stock at Stock Yards

	Seven Months Ending			
	July 1936	1935	1936	1935
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle* ...	1,317	1,080	7,989	7,360†
Calves ...	564	522	3,684	3,650†
Hogs ...	1,915	1,336	13,806	11,705
Sheep ...	2,022	2,368	12,818	13,793
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle* ...	534	391	2,898	2,788
Calves ...	163	147	1,140	1,120
Hogs ...	562	420	4,152	3,639
Sheep ...	1,014	1,163	5,842	6,231
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle* ...	210	122	1,052	1,115
Calves ...	30	23	215	218
Hogs ...	57	24	262	195
Sheep ...	152	109	774	787
FEDERAL INSPECTION SLAUGHTER—				
Cattle* ...	928	745	5,789	4,974
Calves ...	523	464	3,420	3,257
Hogs ...	2,692	1,712	18,933	15,505
Sheep ...	1,352	1,545	9,369	9,890

Three ciphers omitted. Receipts and shipments are for sixty-nine markets.

\*Exclusive of calves.

†Includes stockers and feeders.

‡Includes animals purchased for FSRC.

#### Meat Holdings

Commodity in Pounds (000 omitted)	Aug. 1 1936	Aug. 1 1935	Five-Yr. Aver.
Frozen beef ...	26,697	33,228	28,350
Cured beef* ...	16,157	16,245	15,773
Lamb and mutton ...	1,469	2,109	1,625
Frozen pork ...	96,028	83,119	166,498
Dry salt pork* ...	93,979	61,231	115,773
Pickled pork* ...	252,476	225,560	353,062
Miscellaneous ...	61,354	49,532	64,593
Total meats ...	548,160	471,074	745,674
Lard ...	116,824	68,435	148,147
Frozen poultry ...	49,270	41,262	39,119
Creamery butter ...	103,393	149,628	126,936
Eggs (case equiv.) ...	10,640	11,269	11,666

\*Cured or in process of cure.

## Exports and Imports

**I**N THE following tables we present figures showing exports and imports of live animals, meat products, hides and skins, and unmanufactured wool and mohair for the first six months of the current year, as compared with the same period of 1935:

### LIVE ANIMALS (Numbers)

	EXPORTS	1936	1935
Cattle	1,528	1,955	
Hogs	101	203	
Sheep and goats	202	8,134	
Horses	577	360	
Mules, asses, and burros	706	803	

### IMPORTS

	IMPORTS	1936	1935
Cattle	285,253	230,581	
Sheep and goats	4,650	3,787	
Horses	14,477	3,432	
Hogs (pounds)	6,535,913	46,734	

### MEAT PRODUCTS (Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	EXPORTS	1936	1935
Beef and veal, fresh	2,231,616	2,372,453	
Beef and veal, pickled	3,070,764	2,823,298	
Horse meat	469,543	515,209	
Mutton and lamb, fresh	240,596	344,670	
Pork, fresh	1,125,465	8,103,973	
Pork, pickled	4,684,028	5,471,372	
Bacon	1,714,448	3,721,795	

#### IMPORTS

	IMPORTS	1936	1935
Beef and veal, fresh	2,483,533	4,852,526	
Pork, fresh	5,651,386	1,452,286	
Mutton and lamb, fresh	17,605	22,216	
Other fresh meats	544,044	403,259	
Beef and veal, cured	1,063,253	707,145	
Hams and bacon	10,978,052	1,328,124	
Pork, pickled	1,336,148	297,524	
Poultry, fresh	154,638	133,190	
Poultry, prepared	250,882	180,594	
Canned meats	50,517,311	38,602,374	

### EDIBLE ANIMAL OILS AND FATS (Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	EXPORTS	1936	1935
Lard	60,508,312	68,002,822	
Neutral lard	438,734	726,893	
Oleo oil	4,705,047	4,404,635	

#### IMPORTS

	IMPORTS	1936	1935
Edible animal oils and fats	10,158,920	6,954,254	

### HIDES AND SKINS (Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	EXPORTS	1936	1935
Cattle hides	5,155,731	13,058,488	
Kip and calf skins	3,880,714	7,140,018	
Sheep and goat skins	1,166,248	913,622	
Others	4,541,898	3,743,401	

#### IMPORTS

	IMPORTS	1936	1935
Cattle hides	75,383,676	60,105,216	
Buffalo hides	578,033	380,138	
Indian water-buffalo hides	1,024,322	621,194	
Kip and calf skins	10,764,095	9,914,846	
Horse, colt, and ass hides	6,921,503	4,078,490	
Sheep and lamb skins	24,775,869	19,041,765	
Goat and kid skins	42,014,017	37,556,875	
Kangaroo skins	643,586	477,403	
Deer and elk skins	1,556,192	1,200,421	
Reptile skins*	265,203	203,786	
Others*	755,660	2,920,112	

### WOOL (Pounds)

#### EXPORTS

	EXPORTS	1936	1935
Wool and mohair, unmanufactured	11,424	3,357	

#### IMPORTS

	IMPORTS	1936	1935
Wool and mohair, unmanufactured	126,309,000	81,654,732	

\*Figures for 1936 are in pieces.

### CANADIAN IMPORTS

The Canadian heavy-cattle and 700-pound-up-dairy-cow quotas were, respectively, 91.5 per cent and 18.8 per cent filled on August 11. The calf quota was exhausted in July.

## Imports for Breeding Tests

In the search for superior germ plasm for the improvement of live stock in this country, the Department of Agriculture has just imported from England 3 South Devon cattle, 4 Large Black hogs, 22 White Wyandotte chickens, and 11 White Austrian turkeys. After undergoing the necessary period of federal quarantine, the foreign live stock will be used for experimental purposes, including some crossbreeding with types already established here.

The South Devon cattle will be used by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, and the hogs and poultry are for experiments by the Bureau of Animal Industry. The South Devons, cattle of a large breed, are noted for both beef and milk production. Bulls and steers attain a weight of approximately 1,800 pounds, and the best cows yield upward of 16,000 pounds of milk annually. The Large Black hogs were obtained in Suffolkshire. The White Wyandotte chickens were obtained from various points in England and are to be used in comparisons with the same and other breeds of the United States. Notwithstanding the name of White Austrian turkeys, these birds were obtained from England also. The breed is similar to the White Holland turkey raised to some extent in the United States. The live stock include both sexes for the propagation of the breeds as well as for crossbreeding purposes.

shire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin—the season this year opens October 10 and closes November 8; in the intermediate zone—Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, including Long Island, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming—the season is November 1 to 30; and in the southern zone—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia—November 26 to December 25.

Three important species of waterfowl—the Atlantic brant and redhead and canvasback—have been placed on the list of fully protected species this season. These three have not shown the recovery noted in other species.

Last year's regulations not permitting baiting or the use of live decoys and sink boxes or batteries have been strengthened and continued.

Waterfowl and coot may be hunted in season from 7 A. M. to 4 P. M. standard time.

The three-shell limit on repeating shotguns in effect last year is continued this season. Hunters may use shotguns not larger than No. 10 gauge.

The one-hundred-foot regulation for the location of blinds has been eliminated.

## FEEDSTUFFS

Cottonseed cake and meal on September 8 was quoted at \$35 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Omaha hay prices on September 2 were as follows: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$19; No. 1, \$17.50 to \$18; standard leafy, \$16.50 to \$17; standard, \$16; No. 2, \$15 to \$15.50; No. 3, \$15; upland prairie—No. 1, \$16.50; No. 2, \$15 to \$15.50; No. 3, \$13.50 to \$14; midland prairie—No. 1, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 2, \$13 to \$14; mixed hay—No. 1, \$16 to \$16.50; No. 2, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 3, \$14 to \$14.50.

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# FOREIGN

## Live Stock in England

### Long-term Plan Will Limit Imports and Supply Subsidies

BY J. RAYMOND  
London

BEEF PRODUCERS all over the country have protested against the Minister of Agriculture's new meat-policy proposals which are intended to form the basis of the government's "long-term plan." Keen disappointment has been expressed that there has been no indication in the official announcement that a minimum standard price should be fixed. Walter Elliot has announced that the government proposes to proceed on the basis of a regulated market, with the maximum supplies for the consumer consistent with a reasonable level of remuneration for the producer. The government desires that at the earliest possible date responsibility for securing stable market conditions should be assumed by producers in the various countries concerned and exercised in the light of joint discussion of the problems involved. This discussion will be secured by the institution of an Empire Meat Council, representative of the United Kingdom and other Empire countries concerned, and an international meat conference, representative of the United Kingdom, other Empire countries, and the foreign countries supplying substantial quantities of meat to this market.

#### Limited Imports

It would be proposed that, unless agreed otherwise by the conference, aggregate exports to this market of beef

(frozen and chilled and the meat equivalent of fat cattle) during each of the next three years should not exceed recent levels. Further proposals as to market regulation, which mainly affect the exporting countries, are under discussion with the governments of the countries concerned, and Mr. Elliot has promised that full details of the proposals will be given in due course. The president of the Board of Trade is at present in negotiation with the Argentine government on the terms of a trade agreement to take the place of that now in force. Mr. Elliot went on to say that the government had given earnest consideration to the position of the home cattle producer under these arrangements, and proposed to invite Parliament to make provisions for a permanent scheme for the payment from the Exchequer of a subsidy to producers of fat cattle, which, while not stimulating an artificial expansion of the home industry, would continue.

#### Financial Assistance

The government is of opinion that if adequate provision is to be made, in one form or another, for the needs of the cattle industry, the aggregate financial assistance now given to it must be increased until such time as the conditions prevailing in the industry improve. It proposes to seek the authority of Parliament to apply to the assistance of the industry such sums not exceeding £5,000,000 per annum as might from time to time be needed. As an offset to this liability, the Exchequer would benefit to the extent of the revenue from the import duties. As regards mutton and lamb, imports of which are at present

regulated in the case of foreign supplies under statute and in the case of Dominion supplies by voluntary arrangements, the government proposes to continue the present system for 1937.

#### Producer Troubles

The unfortunate position of the producers has been accentuated by the poor condition of the pastures, due to late frosts, heavy rains, and cold winds. In consequence, most of the stock being penned is carrying less finish than is usual at this time of the year. Fat cattle are meeting a slow sale, are coming forward in smaller numbers, and are mostly grass-fed and of only fair quality. Fat steers and heifers have made from \$8.50 to \$10.20 per live cwt. Prices of fat cows have also fallen at most centres.

A good proportion of the light penning of store cattle find buyers. At a few centres slight price reductions have been made to effect sales. First quality yearlings have made from \$42 to \$50 per head, two-year-old's, \$52 to \$64.50, and three-year-old's, \$76 per head.

#### Subsidy Rates

The decline in the quality of the general run of beef cattle, now being marketed, is likely to be arrested by the latest draft scheme of the Cattle Committee which administers subsidy payments. The scheme, which has yet to be approved, provides that (a) the animal must be likely to furnish a carcass up to the standard of Grade III (Good) National Mark beef; i. e., the animal shall be reasonably well finished, the fat covering shall be fair, and there shall be at least a small amount of cod (or udder) fat. The flesh shall be of average thickness. (b) No payment will be made in respect of any weight above 13 cwt.; i. e., the payment in respect of an animal weighing over 13 cwt. shall be the same as that payable for an animal of 13 cwt. (c) A cow heifer will be defined as any female which has calved but which has not grown more than six incisor permanent teeth and still retains not less than two temporary incisor teeth (calf teeth). The subsidy is to be paid at a higher rate in respect of home-bred steers and heifers which conform to the following additional requirements:

(a) The animal shall not have grown more than four permanent incisor teeth and shall still retain not less than four temporary incisor teeth (calf teeth).

(b) The animal shall weigh not less than 8 cwt., live weight.

(c) The animal shall have a killing-out percentage of not less than 57 per cent (64 pounds to the cwt.).

(d) The animal shall be relatively short and stocky and heavily and uniformly fleshed throughout. The hindquarters shall be markedly heavier than the forequarters. Buttocks, loins, and ribs shall be well developed and rounded.

## REGISTERED HEREFORD CATTLE

Choicest blood-lines; outstanding individuals; raised under actual range conditions

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ALBERT, NEW MEXICO

The neck shall be short and plump. The finish shall be excellent but the fat covering may be slightly patchy. The cod fat, or, in the case of a heifer, the udder fat, shall be abundant and firm. No payment is to be made in respect of an animal eligible for the higher rate of subsidy for any weight above 11½ cwt.; i.e., the payment in respect of an animal weighing over 11½ cwt. shall be the same as that payable for an animal of 11½ cwt.

Veal is experiencing a good demand, first quality calves making around 25 cents per pound, and second quality from 14 to 22 cents per pound.

#### Sheep Up

The poor feed conditions have resulted in sheep taking longer to arrive in condition, and light pennings of fat sheep are in keen request, with shearlings and fat ewes firm to higher in price. Downs and Crossbreds are fetching from 19 to 23 cents per pound for first quality, and 10 cents to 13 cents per pound for third quality, with other breeds quoted at 20 and 17 cents per pound, respectively, for first and second quality, and 9 to 14 cents per pound for third quality. The store sheep sales are attracting large numbers of buyers, and the demand for breeding ewes and store lambs is very keen. Prices are considerably higher than at the corresponding sales a year ago.

#### Pig Premiums

Fat pigs have been marketed in fewer numbers to meet a sharp inquiry, and quotations for baconers, porkers, and sows are much higher than was the case at this time last year, due to the continuance of the cool weather and a tendency for the pork season to extend throughout the summer. If they will contract for not less than 2,200,000 pigs, and the price of feeding stuffs does not rise too high, producers should do better in 1937; or so it would appear from a statement issued by the Joint Policy Committee of the Pigs and Bacon Marketing Boards. This reveals an important change. There are to be three grades of pigs—A B and C, with B the basic grade. The premium for A pigs and the deduction for C pigs is to be 6d. per score above or below B pigs, instead of 3d. per score. The curers have undertaken to guarantee minimum prices for pigs put under contract, provided 2,200,000 pigs are distributed in equitable proportion among the factories. In the current year, after issuing supplementary contracts, about 2,200,000 pigs were obtained. But something like 300,000 were also bought by curers on the open market, and often above contract price. This upset the "loyal" producers who had contracted. Now the curers have undertaken not to buy on the open market in return for a promise by the Pigs Board to provide them with 2,200,000 pigs. Under the new contract, farmers will be guar-

anteed a minimum price ranging from 11s. to 12s. per score. They will receive more if the price of bacon rises above 88s. 10d. per cwt.

#### Notes From Foreign Lands

Fixed prices and strict governmental regulation of the grain trade, applying to wheat, rye, oats, and barley, will be continued in Germany during the 1936-37 marketing season. Strict regulation of grain deliveries to flour mills and of flour production, prices, and distribution have been continued. The principal change in the government's grain policy for 1936-37 is the tightening of the control exercised over the purchase, sale, processing, and distribution of feed grains.

The government of New Zealand is now guaranteeing producers of butter and cheese a minimum price. Profits made over the guaranteed price will go to the dairying industry; the losses incurred will be borne by the state. The program seeks to stop speculation in the products in British markets and to regulate shipments to British ports. New Zealand is the second largest butter exporter, being exceeded only by Denmark.

A second official estimate places the German wheat crop this year at 177,140,000 bushels, rye at 314,234,000 bushels, barley at 163,829,000 bushels, and oats at 397,517,000 bushels. These figures represent a substantial increase in each instance over 1935 and indicate the largest harvest since 1933, when 205,920,000 bushels of wheat, 343,570,000 bushels of rye, 159,287,000 bushels of barley, and 479,011,000 bushels of oats were produced.

Sugar-beet farmers in Austria are

obliged under a recent law to keep cattle of Austrian origin for fattening. Farmers producing 200 metric tons of sugar beets must keep during the year 1 head for each 50 tons of sugar beets produced; a larger proportion, by those growing over 200 tons. Agricultural distilleries are required to keep 1 head for each 10 hectoliters (about 26 gallons) of their alcohol contingent.

\* \* \*

A drastic licensing system recently adopted by Australia will seriously affect American exports to that market. Australia's trade balance with the United States has ranged on the unfavorable side from \$35,000,000 to \$125,000,000 annually since 1929. Officials have explained that there was no other alternative to imposing the licensing system, because the United States did not negotiate a trade treaty with the Commonwealth.

\* \* \*

On August 15 the government of Manchukuo promulgated an ordinance authorizing control of exports or imports of specified commodities whenever necessary to protect the country's foreign trade or domestic industries. A rule was simultaneously announced making the importation of wheat, wheat flour, wool, and rice subject to governmental supervision.

\* \* \*

England's Minister of Agriculture, Walter Elliot, is quoted in the *Pastoral Review* (Melbourne): "We have held the balance evenly between producer and consumer, and since 1932 the number of bankruptcies of farmers in England and Wales has fallen by over 60 per cent. Since the National Government came into office, home food production has increased by as much as 20 per cent."

\* \* \*

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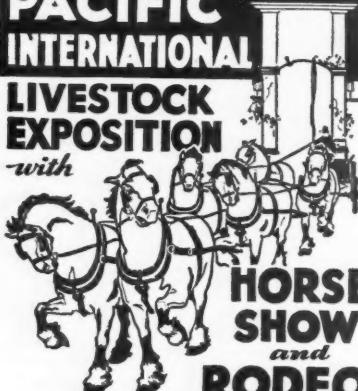


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Union, a wheat crop of about 1,492,000,000 bushels is expected, compared with 1,573,585,000 bushels in 1935. Of this, 395,000,000 bushels represent the Danubian crop and 1,133,000,000 the crop in the other countries. In 1935 the Danube Basin produced 301,690,000; the other countries, 1,271,846,000 bushels.

Argentine wheat sowings this year are estimated at 16,803,000 acres, compared with 14,208,000 acres last year; flaxseed, 7,289,000 acres (6,573,000 last season); oats, 2,965,000; barley, 1,977,000; rye, 1,730,000. About the same acreage of the three last mentioned small grains was planted in each case last year.

Canada's drought area is to be relieved by Dominion expenditures. Good commercial cattle in drought sections will be moved to feeding grounds, poor-quality animals are to be slaughtered, and aid will be extended to provincial authorities in shipping feed to the areas for work animals, foundation stock, and milking cows.

The government of Venezuela promises help to its cattle industry through the reorganization of a formerly privately owned packing and marketing company. Although natural conditions for raising cattle in Venezuela are probably equal to those of anywhere else in the world, the stock industry has been allowed to fall into decay.

In early August Alberta's Prime Minister, William Aberhart, began distribution of "velocity dollars" or "prosperity certificates." They are a form of scrip designed to redeem themselves by a tax which penalizes those who keep them out of circulation. Their purpose is to overcome the scarcity of money in Alberta.

A Czechoslovakian government decree of 1934, permitting farmers to keep only as many hogs and sows as they were able to feed from fodder produced on their own farms and limiting the number of breeding sows to 10 and that of hogs for fattening to 50, without special permit, has been extended to July, 1939.

The exportable surplus of corn held by the Argentine farmer is estimated at 280,000,000 bushels. The United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicts that shortage of the American corn crop this year will necessitate imports of the cereal from Argentina.

The Estonian Purebred Cattle Raisers' Association has signed a contract with the U.S.S.R. authorities for the sale of 2,000 head of purebred Friesian

and Jersey cattle to the U.S.S.R. The delivery will be completed by the end of October, 1936.

For the crop year ended July 31, Canada's exports of wheat and wheat flour amounted to about 250,000,000 bushels. World net imports of these commodities for that year were approximately 500,000,000 bushels.

On August 27 the *Weekly Market News* (Winnipeg) tentatively placed Canadian prairies' wheat crop at 227,000,000 bushels, subject to later revision. Frost damage, it was reported had been almost totally absent.

Estimated consumption of beef and veal in the United Kingdom in 1933 is placed at 62.8 pounds; in 1935, 66.3 pounds. Mutton and lamb consumption in 1933 was 31.9 pounds; in 1935, 30.4 pounds.

A recent French law forbids the importation or sale as leather goods of all articles which are not genuine leather. Under no circumstances may the latter articles be called "leather."

The eating of meat has been forbidden in Greece on Wednesdays and Fridays, with the object of saving currency which would otherwise be spent on purchases of foreign meat.

Wheat growers in India this year harvested a crop of 352,240,000 bushels, compared with 363,179,000 bushels in 1935. The area planted was 33,631,000 acres, compared with 34,490,000 acres last year.

Average consumption of butter and margarine in Denmark during 1929-32 was 63.5 pounds (48.4 margarine and 15.1 butter); in the United States it was 20 pounds (2.4 margarine and 17.6 butter).

Norway's margarine law requiring the mixing of butter in margarine called for a 13 per cent butter mixture as of April 20, 1936. The percentages of required mixture change periodically.

### The Producer-Consumer Gap

The too large a gap between the price the producer receives and the price the consumer pays is becoming a matter of concern to the meat retailers of England. It could be narrowed, believes a correspondent writing in the *Meat Trades' Journal* (London), by licensing and registration of butchers. He says:

"Licensing and registration . . . granted by the trade itself . . . is a defensive measure, and not only for the individual but also for the trade as a whole. . . .

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The difference [the gap] is swallowed up by overheads—too many shops, high rates, expensive attention to customers. The number of shops would be controlled by only allowing a butcher's business to be conducted by the owner or manager in charge holding a qualifying license. . . . All in the trade, say over 21, would have to be licensed. Then for qualification, to prove five years' service in the trade and the passing of a diploma standard by examinations.

"So you see, there would be no redundant shops, and freedom of trade would not be interfered with. . . . The trouble of the last few years has struck me as due to the decrease in turnover of most shops, necessitating the dismissal of servants who have long served to the satisfaction of both master and man. The only opportunity the man has had of keeping in the trade he likes and has been brought up in has been to get a few pounds together and open a shop of his own. Thus the vicious circle has operated until now there are shops almost without number and each and every one carrying overheads that the public are paying for with their goods.

"Now . . . bump me right and left with your disagreements and objections, and maybe from the strife a brighter era may dawn for the trade. Or so I hope," concludes the correspondent.

In the United States a similar producer-to-consumer gap has long vexed the stock grower. Investigators who have plunged into the problem have come out only with reports that probably none of the handlers involved are taking an undue share but perhaps there might be too many of them engaged in certain of the branches that make up the marketing system.

#### "MOUNTAIN CATTLE"

Anecdotes, both humorous and tragic, the emergencies, and the everyday happenings on an Arizona cattle ranch make up the story of *Mountain Cattle*, by Mary Kidder Rak, a book released this year by Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston.

The story is told in the simple, direct words of a cowman's wife who likes being out making an extra hand with the cattle. Mrs. Rak was not born and bred to the life of a cowgirl, but she developed a wholehearted gusto for it. When a solid inch of rain falls, and her husband remarks, "Now, if we can only get a good cloudburst or some heavy thunderstorms on top of this, we'll have water everywhere," she understands. She tells about two cowmen on the Ark: "Had a pretty good shower here," said one, as he watched the waters recede. "Be all right if we get another like it in a day or two," the other agreed.

If you liked Mrs. Rak's *The Cowman's Wife*, you will enjoy *Mountain Cattle*.

# ROUND THE RANGE

## Stock and Range Report

Western ranges have very short to good supplies of feed—very short in the Great Plains area and east of the Rockies; good in the mountain areas, irrigated sections, states west of the main range, and most of Texas—and live stock is generally in good condition except in the severe drought areas, according to the September 1 report of the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates. Condition of ranges is 70 per cent of normal, compared with 72 last month, 81 a year ago, 55 in 1934, and 79.6 for the ten-year (1926-35) average.

Condition by states is summarized as follows:

**Arizona.**—Range feed spotted; rains needed in many areas; feed good in northwest and some other areas; driest sections in southeast; cattle gaining rapidly where rains fell; sheep and lambs doing well.

**California.**—Pastures and ranges fairly satisfactory; matured native feed, stubble, meadows, and field feeds generally adequate but quality lowered by rain; hay and concentrates ample, but higher prices will restrict use; cattle on late ranges excellent; others mostly

good but some thin in sections short of feed; cattle marketings largely cleaned up in early districts and feed-lots; fat cattle in good demand; feeders going slowly; sheep in good condition; most fat late lambs marketed; feeders in local demand.

**Colorado.**—Early August rains improved ranges and pastures; fall and winter feed adequate except in local dry-land eastern Colorado and winter ranges in northwest; surplus hay in mountain and irrigated areas; cattle and sheep in very good condition.

**Idaho.**—High ranges good; some lower ranges short and dry; recent rains of benefit; feed will be in surplus; stock in good condition.

**Kansas (western).**—Pastures short and dry; no moisture for fall growth; feed crop production poor but exceeds 1934; cattle lost flesh from high temperatures and short feeds; shipments heavy, but no extensive liquidation; Flint Hills feed short, and dry feed and stock water seriously low.

**Montana.**—Range and feed practically failure in east; fairly good supplies in irrigated and western areas; water supplies short in many places; winter feed will be scant, and high prices will



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An antiseptic which hastens blood-clotting and acts as a fly-repellent.

### GLOBE SCREW-WORM KILLER AND REPELLENT

This preparation is a clear red liquid which kills screw worms and maggots on contact, without injury to the tissue. Does not burn or cause sloughing of wound. Recommended for use on sheep, and can be applied to eye, nose, or mouth. The liquid vaporizes and leaves an antiseptic powder over and in the treated surface, which acts as a fly-repellent, thus protecting the surfaces from new flyblows for a reasonable period of time.

### HORN PAINT

Globe Horn Paint is a recognized fly-repellent for use following branding, dehorning, castrating, and spaying. It may be applied to wounds which are liable to become fly-blown. Every ranchman who dehorns and castrates many animals each year knows that there is a certain amount of loss if proper antiseptic precautions are not taken.

Globe Horn Paint is very thick and sticky and therefore adheres to the flesh and protects the wound. Flies will not ordinarily blow a wound that has been properly covered with Globe Horn Paint. The proper use of this product will correct conditions that might otherwise develop into serious losses.

This product is effective in preventing screw-worm infestations when applied as directed.

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force much stock to market; shipments from dry areas heavy; recent rains helped in west; cattle and sheep held up well, but live stock thin in dry sections.

*Nebraska (western).*—Ranges slightly improved by rains in few localities but short generally; hay crop light but carry-over large; rain needed for ranges and forage crops; cattle in good condition.

*Nevada.*—High ranges good; some lower ranges dry; feed crops good; ample feed for state's limited live-stock supply; live stock in very good condition.

*New Mexico.*—Ranges dried up in some eastern areas and parts of southwest; rain needed for fall and winter feed; higher ranges good; some northeastern sections will be short of feed crops; cattle in good flesh but will make little gain in drier areas; sheep and lambs in good condition; lambs will be good weights.

*North Dakota.*—Range and pasture feeds short, particularly in southwest where practically no feed exists; shipments heavy from drier areas, many going into eastern sections of state; winter feed supplies short, but heavy shipments will tend to balance feed and stock; cattle and sheep held up well, although live stock thin in drier sections.

*Oklahoma.*—Continued hot, dry weather further reduced range and feed; range and pasture condition lowest in state's history; feed crops short, and winter feed being fed; stock water very short; cattle in poor to fair condition and losing flesh rapidly; rains needed to permit wheat planting for fall and winter grazing.

*Oregon.*—Feed good on high ranges;

lower ranges carry fine grass supply which dried rapidly during August; hay and other feeds plentiful, even considerable surplus; cattle and sheep in fine condition; some drought cattle shipped in.

*South Dakota (western).*—Practically no feed on ranges; water short, little hay, roughage, or grain; shipments heavy; feed prices too high to permit holding stock; cattle lost flesh in drier areas, and some are thin; lambs light and ewes thin.

*Texas.*—Hot weather and lack of rain during August reduced range and other feeds; ranges and feed short in Panhandle and north-central sections where rain badly needed; some surplus feed in southern areas; ample supplies in other parts, except dry northern sections; sheep ranges dry but feed good; light demand at present for cattle, lambs, and sheep.

*Utah.*—Summer ranges good to excellent; feed on fall and winter ranges improved; cattle and sheep doing well in all sections; lambs will be in good condition.

*Washington.*—High ranges better than usual; fall and winter ranges dry but carry good grass supply; surplus feed throughout state for fall and winter use; live stock in very good condition.

*Wyoming.*—Ranges continue very poor in northeast and east, generally good in western and some central areas; hay and feeds very short in dry areas, with fair to good supplies in irrigated and western sections; cattle and sheep in good condition except in drought areas; cattle shipments heavy from northeast, with some sheep shipments; high feed prices will tend to force shipments.

### Crop Estimate

A corn yield for this year of 1,458,295,000 bushels is the September 1 estimate by the Department of Agriculture. This compares with 1,439,135,000 bushels indicated a month ago, and 2,244,834,000 bushels two months ago. Last year's crop was 2,291,629,000 bushels.

Production of all wheat is estimated at 630,241,000 bushels—about 2,500,000 less than indicated last month. Production last year was 623,444,000 bushels. All spring-wheat production is put at 111,144,000 bushels—about 2,500,000 less than last month's estimate. Last year's production was 159,241,000. Durum wheat is forecast at 8,640,000 bushels, compared with 9,031,000 a month ago, and 22,957,000 produced last year. Other spring wheat is indicated at 102,504,000 bushels, compared with 104,617,000 in August, and production last year of 136,283,000 bushels.

Other estimates are: Oats, 776,661,000 bushels (771,703,000 last month and 1,196,668,000 produced last year); barley, 114,847,000 (145,027,000 and 282,226,000); rye, 27,095,000 (27,095,000 and 58,928,000).

### Western Stock Marketings

Shipments of cattle and calves during August to December, 1936, from the seventeen states in the western cattle area extending from North Dakota to Texas and westward are expected to be considerably greater than the relatively large shipments during the corresponding period in 1935, according to the Department of Agriculture. The indicated increase is 15 per cent—about 800,000 head.

The increased shipments will be from the plains states—North Dakota to Oklahoma—and the mountain states of Montana and Wyoming. From the other states as a whole marketings are expected to be somewhat smaller. Improvements that may come from abundant rainfall apparently cannot be sufficient to eliminate necessity for continuing heavy shipments from these states, although it might reduce shipments. Trend in prices will be an important factor in determining marketings from outside the drought area.

Marketings of lambs from the thirteen western sheep states are expected to reflect to some extent the larger lamb crop in these states and the relatively small market movement of 1936 lambs before August 1. Shortage of feed is a factor in the sheep situation only in the three western sheep states of South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. The greatly reduced feed grain production in the Corn Belt, however, may affect considerably the number of lambs fed and the demand for feeders. Grazing allotments on the public domain may also be a factor in sheep and lamb mar-

## PIONEER HEREFORDS

Will Feature the Annual Sale at Ranch, Six Miles West of Merriman, Neb., Friday, Nov. 6

Sons and Daughters of "Pioneer" have by their performance in the show ring at Denver and other fairs and by their popularity with breeders and ranchmen in the show sales and our annual auctions proved the right to the name "Pioneer." They lead the way to better breeding and feeding Herefords.

Visit the Ranch at Any Time

**ED BELSKY**

**Merriman, Neb.**

## PAINTER HEREFORDS

We Specialize in the Rugged, Large-Boned Type of Herefords,  
Rather Than the Smaller, Fine-Boned Show Type

QUALITY HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

**JOHN E. PAINTER & SONS**

**Roggen, Colorado**

ketings from some states. It is expected that the number of lambs fed this fall and winter in most of the western sheep states, except those in the bad drought areas, will be comparatively large.

### Cattle on Feed August 1

A 3 per cent increase in the number of cattle on feed for market in the Corn Belt on August 1, 1936, over August 1, 1935, is reported by the Department of Agriculture. On April 1 and January 1 of this year the estimated increases over 1935 were 41 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively. All the states east of the Mississippi River and Minnesota and Iowa had more cattle on feed this August than last, while the other states had fewer.

As to weights, animals will be marketed in "a little larger proportion of cattle under 1,100 pounds than was reported last year in August."

Expected purchases by feeders during the remainder of the year will be much smaller than last year, the report continues. For the Corn Belt as a whole, this decrease is indicated as 30 per cent, with the greatest let-down in the states west of the Missouri River where effect of drought on grain production has been the most serious. However, the reduction is thought to give a better indication of the number to be fed for market in the fall and winter than of the actual in-shipments of stockers and feeders. It is expected that the stock cattle movement will continue heavy, but largely for grazing and roughing through the winter rather than for immediate grain feeding.

### Co-operative Selling Gains

During the 1935-36 marketing season, 600,000 farmers and stockmen marketed through co-operative associations live stock valued at \$250,000,000, according to the Farm Credit Administration. Marketings during the 1934-35 period were valued at \$175,000,000.

The largest of the co-operative terminal market sales agencies handled over 1,000,000 animals during 1935; another agency handled over 900,000 animals. More than half the farmers marketing their live stock through co-operatives are in the five states of Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Ohio.

Total sales of 2,270 dairy co-operatives reporting from forty-five states amounted to \$520,000,000 during the 1935-36 season. The figure for reporting associations in 1934-35 was \$440,000,000.

The number of dairymen marketing milk and cream through co-operatives is about 720,000 at present. Wisconsin has the largest number of co-operative units—some 709.

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

### Yearbook of Agriculture

The first volume of what in effect is a Who's Who of plants and animals is off the press at the government printing office.

The volume goes under the familiar title, *Yearbook of Agriculture, 1936*, but the resemblance to previous yearbooks ends there. Both in typography and in content the 1,189-page book breaks with the past. Agricultural statistics, which used to require half of the yearbook, are cut to 32 pages, leaving to a separate volume the usual detailed tables.

"Better Plants and Animals" is the subtitle of the main section of the new yearbook, and it presents the results of what is probably the first comprehensive survey of superior plant and animal germ plasm, the vehicle of inheritance. For each of the major crop and live-stock groups the book presents a genetic history, a critical survey of superior strains, a discussion of genetic problems and how to meet them, and an extensive catalog of what seems to be superior germ plasm. The articles cover corn, the small grains, sugar beets and sugar cane, cotton, flax, tobacco, and the major live-stock classes.

The 1936 yearbook is on sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$1.25 a copy.

### Harvesting Blue-Grama Seed

Trials in Nebraska show that it is practical to use blue-grass seed strippers to harvest blue-grama seed. Circular 4021-C, just issued by the Department of Agriculture, shows that harvesting costs are reasonable. Blue grama is recognized as a desirable native grass for checking erosion and for reseeding ranges in the short-grass country.

How the use of the blue-grass strippers cuts costs is revealed in this circular by Jess L. Fults of the Soil Conservation Service. The first year, 1934, it cost \$626.35 to harvest 788 pounds of seed, or 79 cents a pound. With experience and a better arrangement of machinery last year it cost only 19 cents a pound to harvest a much larger quantity though lower in purity and germination. The cost of harvesting, the yield, and the viability of the blue-grama seed collected are reported in the circular, which may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

### The Miscellaneous Column

Cash receipts from the sale of farm products amounted to \$3,132,000,000 in the first half of 1936, compared with \$2,670,000 in the same period of 1935. In addition, payments from the government during first six months of 1936 amounted to \$169,000,000, which was about 40 per cent less than the government payments in the first half of 1935. Farmers' cash income from the sale of products in July was \$711,000,000, the highest figure since 1929. In addition, government rental and benefit payments of \$24,000,000 were made in July, compared with \$19,000,000 in July last year.

\* \* \*

Now forest rangers are wondering if cigarette-smoking birds are to be added to the list of fire hazards. They are worried over the discovery of four cigarette stubs found in the remains of a bird's nest in the eaves of a burned building at Dorris, California. Rangers hope that it is only a queer bird who has the snipe-shooting habit, as they have plenty of troubles preventing careless travelers who toss away their burning butts from causing forest fires.

\* \* \*

Recommendations on budget requests presented August 4 to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace by a special committee of the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, included \$24,000,000 for the control of Bang's disease, \$3,000,000 for the control of mastitis, \$15,000,000 for the purchase of surplus dairy products for relief, and such amount for the control of bovine tuberculosis as may be recommended by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

\* \* \*

The California Wool Growers' Association is circulating a petition which will request an investigation by the Tariff Commission into the huge in-

### Haley-Smith Co.

Breeders of  
Registered Herefords

Bulls for Sale at  
All Times

STERLING, COLORADO

crease in importtaion of wool felt hat bodies. Imports of this commodity from Japan rose from 13,854 bodies in 1934 to 2,703,514 bodies in 1935. Wool felt hat bodies are made from short wools produced mostly in California and Texas.

\* \* \*

Under the direction of Dr. Jos. Leleyveld, the National Association for Foot Health has been issuing publicity emphasizing the importance of proper footwear for the health of the feet. In the various published articles of the association, leather is described as the ideal material for shoes. Dr. Leleyveld particularly advocates the use of nothing but leather in children's footwear.

\* \* \*

Twenty-seven bank failures occurred in the United States during the first six months of the present year. Four of these were national banks. One of the 27 was outside the Federal Reserve System, and its deposits were therefore not insured. Only 1,093 private and state banks in the entire country remain outside the Federal Reserve System.

\* \* \*

For the calendar year of 1935 the production of crude soy-bean oil in the United States was 105,056,204 pounds,

as against 35,365,815 pounds the preceding year, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Census. Refined soy-bean oil is given as 78,100,996 pounds, as compared with 12,765,331 pounds the preceding year.

\* \* \*

The Department of Commerce recently estimated the total jobless in the United States to be about 9,550,000. President Green of the American Federation of Labor estimates out-of-work persons to number 11,000,000. An estimate last April by the National Industrial Conference Board placed the figure at 9,800,000.

\* \* \*

Plans to utilize thousands of acres of abandoned farm land and pastures to create a new \$11,000,000 industry by raising beef and lamb are reported by the *Evening News* (Salem, Massachusetts) as being in the making by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.

\* \* \*

A small fleet of street cars is used by Armour and Company in Soa Paulo, Brazil, for delivering meat to its up-town branch house. *Armour*, a monthly published by the company, explains that meat is sold "warm" in Soa Paulo, because the Brazilians do not care for

chilled meat, and that is why the street cars are so advantageous.

\* \* \*

The Georgia negro Chamber of Commerce has formed a co-operative association to market the farm products of negro farmers in twenty-two Georgia counties, says "Kablegram," a publication of Kable Brothers Company, printers, Chicago.

\* \* \*

A total of 26,150,197 tree seedlings were distributed to farmers for woodland and shelterbelt planting in forty states and two territories through federal-state co-operation last year, the Forest Service reports.

\* \* \*

A top sale for the season, says the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, was that of Barbarian of Rosemere 93d 478363, an Angus owned by Otto V. Battles, of Yakima, Washington. The price paid was \$2,200.

\* \* \*

Exports of women's leather boots and shoes from United States increased from 223,525 pairs valued at \$557,412 in the first half of 1935 to 415,602 pairs valued at \$1,200,133 in the same period of 1936.

\* \* \*

A farm boy in Virginia, we read in *News Week*, told his employer that a two-year-old Barred Rock rooster laid an egg. The employer put the bird in a cage for observation. It laid five more.

\* \* \*

More than 35 per cent of the creamery butter produced in the country is manufactured by co-operative associations. About one-fifth of the cheese is produced by co-operative factories.

\* \* \*

Careless smokers who neglected a few simple precautions caused 47,345 forest fires last year, or 23 per cent of all forest fires, says the Forest Service.

\* \* \*

A Wyoming government department recently described dude ranching as "by far the most important division of our recreational and tourist industry."

\* \* \*

Out of 500,000 retail food dealers in the United States, only 150,000 take out the necessary special licenses to sell margarine.

\* \* \*

For every mile and a half of our highways there is a filling station or garage, says the American Automobile Association.

\* \* \*

Experiments are being carried on by the AAA to check soil conservation compliance by a system of aerial photography.

Save after Seven  
and all day Sunday

Long Distance telephone  
rates are reduced  
after 7 every night  
and all hours Sunday

Enjoy a telephone visit  
with the folks back home  
or friends in other towns.

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## THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

### WILD-LIFE AGITATION

TO THE PRODUCER:—During the past few years various civic and sportsmen's organizations in Washington have been agitating for removal of live stock from grazing on our national forests. The agitation appears to have reached such proportions as to menace the live-stock industry of the entire western country and particularly of the state of Washington. A committee of the Washington Cattlemen's Association, on which I served, has accumulated some facts regarding game and stock on the forests. I give here some of the findings of that committee.

The national forests are divided into six regions located in fourteen western range states. There are approximately 82,000,000 acres usable and open to grazing for stock, and in the year 1934 approximately 26,000 permittees grazed 1,480,930 cattle and horses and 6,225,015 sheep on our national forests. In Washington 92 sheep permittees and 436 cattle and horse permittees grazed 135,145 sheep and 17,155 cattle and horses during 1935.

It is plain to see what effect removal of this vast number of stock from our ranges would have, not only on the live-stock industry, but on the social welfare of our entire western country.

The argument is often advanced that the forest ranges are dominated by large operators. Figures from the district forest office at Portland refute that argument. In Region 6 (Oregon and Washington) during 1934 the average permit was for 63 head of cattle and horses. Figures for 1935 show that 89.6 per cent of the permittees of Oregon and Washington ran not more than 150 head of cattle. In 1935 the average permittee ran only 39 head of cattle and horses on the forests of Washington.

In 1922, 1,585 head of deer were estimated to be on the Chelan Forest, and in 1935, 9,110 head—an increase of 374 per cent. This increase occurred while the range was being grazed by stock. If stock were removed and replaced with deer, the question arises: Where will this large number of deer acquire their winter feed? According to observation made by forest officials, "deer on or adjacent to the Chelan Forest do not winter on lands grazed by sheep. Neither do they winter to any extent on national forest lands (of the Chelan) grazed by either sheep or cattle. They do winter on private, county, and

state-owned lands." Chelan officials also declare that winter feed is the limiting factor in deer numbers. How then is the removal of stock from the national forests going to solve their game problem?

We continually hear the cry of overgrazing. No one deplores this condition as much as the stockman himself. If he is going to make a success of his business, he cannot do so on an overgrazed range. In this respect the stockman of Washington welcomes at any time an inspection of the public ranges by anyone qualified to do so. Too often these "inspections" are made by some sportsman while deer hunting in the fall, who knows nothing about actual range conditions but who is a fluent after-dinner speaker.

The Forest Service has come in for its share of the "panning" by sportsmen, as it has been accused of being "unduly interested and biased in favor of grazing use to the detriment and injury of more valuable and social uses of the national forests."

The stockman is just as true a sportsman as his friends from the city. What he wants is a program of game and live stock. When the farmer and sportsman get together and work out their difficulties, then a lasting game program can be worked out. Without the support of the stockman and farmer, wild life cannot be preserved.

ROBERT M. FRENCH.  
Okanogan, Washington.

### WIDE, STRAIGHT ROADS

TO THE PRODUCER:—Reduce the administration costs, and we would not need more than half the present tax. Take the politics out of road building, and we could have about three or four times as much road for the same money.

Any road that has the distinction of being marked as a U. S. highway should be not less than 40 feet wide, made of some kind of good, smooth, substantial slab, with a 10-foot wagon road on each side for teams and machinery. Roads should be straightened. The hills should be pulled down and low places built up until there is no grade that exceeds 6 per cent.

Bridges should be safe with a load of 50 or 60 tons. Think of the absurdity of building a road and then putting up a sign at all bridges: "Load limit 3 tons." The little trucks of today weigh about 3 tons empty. Some of them

weigh 7 to 10 tons empty and carry a load of 12 to 20 tons. What do you think the driver of a rig like that thinks when he is faced with a 3-ton sign? Do you suppose that he wonders what has become of the \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year they have taken from him as a road tax?

There should be no heavy cement posts or cement bases along any highway. That is not the way to keep cars or trucks on the road. All ditches should be made sloping enough so that if a vehicle does leave the road it would be possible not to turn over—it might be yours or mine, and you or I do not like to be dumped in the ditch.

C. H. LATTIN.

Portis, Kansas.

### SLOW FEEDER DEMAND

TO THE PRODUCER:—Our range has had some fine rains recently and the feed is well on its way. Some sales have been made for fall delivery, but nothing startling has developed in the way of price for feeder cattle. It does not look as if the feeder demand will be great, and consequently the price should be none too good.

CARLOS RONSTADT.

Tucson, Arizona.

### MORE RAIN

TO THE PRODUCER:—We need more rain, although our ranch looks quite good and the cattle are fat. We have more calves this year than last, and the heavy end of them will average 475 pounds right now. We will have 175 to 200 of feeder calves for sale this fall; also a few fat cows.

GEO. F. DOMINICK III.

Lucy, New Mexico.

WANT 1,500 Head Cattle for Fall and Winter Pasturage. Good grass, water, and shelter. Butler Ranch

Box 967 Pueblo, Colorado

Hardy Alfalfa Seed \$7.40, Grimm \$9.90, White Sweet Clover \$3.50. All 60-pound bushel. Track Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

11,000-ACRE CATTLE RANCH in northern California; controls 30,000 acres of Forest Reserve; 200 acres farming and alfalfa land; good ranch house; 3 large barns. Will carry 1,500 to 2,000 head yearly; both winter and summer range. Price \$7.50 per acre. Terms can be arranged.

Chico Development Corporation  
Box 480, Chico, California

CATTLE AND GENERAL LIVE-STOCK FARMS in Central Alabama. Medium and large acreages available at attractive prices. Ample grazing and feed crops. Long, mild growing season. For information and free copy "The Southland" write E. J. Hoddy, General Development Agent, Dept. D-14, Louisville & Nashville Railroad, Louisville, Ky.

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

# The Advertising Season



Photo by C. J. Belden.

FIVE MILLION CATTLE MOVE TO MARKET IN THE FALL SHIPPING SEASON

**I**N THE WEST, among the cattlemen, there is a "best time of year" to advertise. It is now, while the western movement is on, while the cattle of the West are going to market. Because, when the rangeman sells, he is

ready to buy the things you sell. ¶ Now is the time to talk to him. And you can do that best through THE PRODUCER. It reaches the real buyers in the western range market. It sends your advertising dollar straight to the mark!

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